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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Issues Statement on Iraqi-British Ties *[Tunis Radio]* 1
ACC Deplores UK, Western 'Campaigns Against Iraq' *[Amman Radio]* 1
Committee To Seek Iraqi-Syrian Reconciliation *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 31 Mar]* 1
Council Urges Kuwait Stay, Adopts Its Proposals *[Amman JORDAN TIMES 31 Mar]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

Paper Publishes 'Islamic Army' Statement *[Amman JORDAN TIMES 1 Apr]* 2
Further on Group's Threats *[AFP]* 3
Jibril Demands 'Arafat's Resignation at Rally *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 3
Islamic Front 'Land Day' Call Reported *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 4
Palestinian Official Speaks at Land Day Rally *[KUNA]* 4
Statements Aim at 'Distorting' PLO's Image *[Amman AL-RA'Y 2 Apr]* 5
Negotiations With USSR Avert Direct Flights *[WAKH]* 5
'Arafat Seeks Italy's Influence Over EEC *[Sanaa VOP]* 5
ALF Secretary General on Senate Resolution *[INA]* 5

OPEC Affairs

OPEC Said To End Quotas, Production Ceilings *[KUNA]* 6

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Delegation's Meeting With Shevardnadze Reported *[Algiers Radio]* 7
Social-Liberal Party Presents Platform *[Algiers Radio]* 7
Opposition Adopts Stand on Postponing Elections *[Algiers TV]* 7

Egypt

Butrus Ghali Returns From Paris, Geneva 30 Mar *[Cairo Radio]* 7
Reportage on U.S. Senate Resolution on Jerusalem 8
Government 'Dissatisfied' *[AL-WAFD 30 Mar]* 8
Foreign Ministry Comments *[MENA]* 8
Newspaper Criticizes Resolution *[MENA]* 8
AL-AKHBAR Denounces 'Campaigns' Against Iraq *[MENA]* 8
Source Says No New People's Assembly Elections *[AL-AHRAM 30 Mar]* 9
Commentator Deplores Attack on Polish Diplomat *[Cairo Radio]* 9
Atomic Energy Program, Reactors Discussed *[MENA]* 9
IAEA Sources Cited on Elat Chemical Facility *[Cairo Radio]* 10
Iraq To Pay Workers' Claims 'Within Six Months' *[AL-AKHBAR 28 Mar]* 10

Libya

People's Bureau Protests Expulsions From Ethiopia *[JANA]* 10
Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Envoy Representing U.S. *[JANA]* 10

IRAQ

Delegate Asks UN To Halt Jewish Immigration *[INA]* 11
UN Speech Reported *[Voice of the Masses]* 11
Scud Missiles Said Deployed on Jordanian Border *[Jerusalem TV]* 11
Italian Role in Missile Project Denied *[ANSA]* 12
Further on Saddam, 'Arafat Speeches at Rally *[INA]* 12
Hungarian Finance Minister Arrives on Visit *[INA]* 13
Begins Official Talks *[INA]* 13
Agriculture Minister, Three Governors Sworn in *[Baghdad Radio]* 13
Embassy Calls UK Accusations 'Groundless' *[INA]* 13
Press Cited on 'Poisonous' Anti-Iraq Campaign *[INA]* 13

ISRAEL

Cabinet Discusses Iraqi Missiles, Immigration *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 15
Armed Jordanian 'Terrorist' Caught Near Jericho *[Jerusalem Radio]* 15
Hungarian Airline Resumes Flights to Israel *[Jerusalem Radio]* 15
Shamir: 'Great Satisfaction' With Bush Remarks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 15
Coalition Update Shows 'Race Against Time' *[THE JERUSALEM POST 2 Apr]* 15

JORDAN

'Source' Cited on Rocket Attacks Against Israel *[Jerusalem International]* 17
2 Katyushas Fired From Jordan 'Last Week' *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 17
Brotherhood Calls For Striking at U.S. Interests *[AL-RAYAH AL-ISLAMIYAH 30 Mar]* 17
Perez de Cuellar Praises 'Democratic March' *[JORDAN TIMES 31 Mar]* 18
Departs 31 Mar *[Amman Radio]* 18
Saudi Education Minister Arrives With Message *[Amman Radio]* 18
Delivers Message, Departs *[Amman TV]* 18
Amnesty International Praises Jordan's Democracy *[Amman Radio]* 18
Western Media Accused of Campaign Against Iraq *[AL-DUSTUR 31 Mar]* 19
Arabs Urged To Help Iraq Against 'Campaign' *[AL-DUSTUR 2 Apr]* 19
Editorial on Media Attacks Against Iraq, Syria *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 2 Apr]* 20

LEBANON

Mahmud Rafsanjani Continues Efforts on Hostages *[RFL]* 21
Amal Leader Links Hostage Release to Concessions *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 21
Hizballah's Al-Tufayli Views Security, Hostages *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 21
Further on Al-Tufayli Remarks *[RFL]* 21
Two Polish Citizens Wounded in West Beirut *[Voice of National Resistance]* 21
Arab Resistance Claims Attack *[RFL]* 21
Junblatt on Jewish Immigration, Robinson Killing *[VOM]* 22
'Awn Says U.S. Reports Now 'More Objective' *[Voice of National Resistance]* 22
Islamic Jihad Claims Firing at Israeli Settlement *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 22
Speaker Al-Husayni Comments on Trip to Paris *[RFL]* 23
Pro-Syrian Groups Reportedly Assisting 'Awn *[VOL]* 23
'Awn Confirms Dispatch of Message to Arab Leaders *[RFL]* 23
'Text' of 'Awn's Letter to Arab Committee *[AL-QABAS 29 Mar]* 23
'Dozens' Reportedly Desert 'Awn's Forces *[RFL]* 24
Casualty Tolls Updated in Eastern Area Fighting *[Beirut Radio]* 24
Awn's Gunmen Bombard Kasrawan Area 1 Apr *[VOL]* 24
Infiltration Attempt in Al-Qulay'at 'Foiled' *[VOL]* 24
Cease-fire Declared; Casualties Reported *[VOL]* 25
Lebanese Forces 'Destroy' 'Awn Reinforcements *[VOL]* 25
'Awn, LF Media Cited on 'Fierce' Clashes *[Voice of National Resistance]* 25
Radio Cited on 30, 31 Mar Fighting *[RFL]* 25
RFL Updates Military Situation 30 Mar 25
25 Killed, 35 Injured in 30 Mar Fighting *[RFL]* 26
Al-Huss Comments on Deterioration in Eastern Area *[Beirut Radio]* 26

Further on Ja'ja' Response to Patriarch's Appeal *[VOM]* 26
2 Injured in Amal-Hizballah Fighting 31 Mar *[RFL]* 27

SYRIA

DPRK Official Yi Chong-ok Meets Al-Asad *[Damascus Radio]* 28
Departs 1 April *[Damascus Radio]* 28
Indian Official Delivers Message to Al-Shar' *[Damascus Radio]* 28
Meets With Al-Asad *[Damascus Radio]* 28
Syria Ready for 'Unity With Any Arab Country' *[SANA]* 28

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Najibullah Speaks to Sar-e Pol Elders *[Kabul Radio]* 29
More on Sar-e Pol Meeting *[BAKHTAR]* 31
Najibullah Issues Decree on Property *[Kabul Radio]* 31
Details of Peace Front Commission Meeting *[BAKHTAR]* 32
Judicial Delegation Visits Balkh Province *[Kabul Radio]* 33
Various Sources Give Accounts of Recent Action 33
Islamabad Reports 'Fierce Fighting' *[Islamabad Radio]* 33
Kabul Garrison 'Mopping Up' *[Kabul Radio]* 33
Conflict Intensification *[Islamabad Radio]* 33
Rebels Down Two Helicopters *[AFP]* 33
Rebel Groups Clash *[BAHKTAR]* 33
Tanay Says Struggle Continues, Urges Support *[AFP]* 33
USSR Supreme Soviet Sends Najibullah Greeting *[BAKHTAR]* 34

India

Bill on Extending Punjab President's Rule Fails *[Delhi Radio]* 34
Singh Discusses Bill *[Delhi Radio]* 34
Vote Called Setback for Singh *[AFP]* 35
Political Leaders To Meet on Bill *[Delhi Radio]* 35
Singh Message to Li Peng on Anniversary of Ties *[Delhi International]* 36
Reportage on Situation in Jammu, Kashmir 36
Three Killed, 31 Arrested *[Delhi Radio]* 36
More Deaths, Arrests Reported *[Delhi Radio]* 36
15 'Subversives' Killed in 3 Days *[Delhi Radio]* 36
More 'Subversives' Arrested *[Delhi Radio]* 36
19 'Terrorists' Killed, 79 Arrested *[Delhi Radio]* 36
Singh Apprised of Kashmir Situation *[Delhi Radio]* 37
'Terrorists,' Others Killed in Punjab *[Delhi TV]* 37
7 'Terrorists' Killed *[Delhi Radio]* 37
More on Punjab Deaths *[Delhi Radio]* 37
640 Die in 1990 *[AFP]* 37
Fishermen 'Taken' by LTTE Return 'Safely' *[Delhi Radio]* 37
Indian Forces' Role in Sri Lanka Viewed *[Delhi International]* 38
Outcome of India-Bangladesh Border Talks Reported *[Delhi TV]* 38
Delhi Reports Indian President's Talks in Lisbon *[Delhi Radio]* 39
Human Rights Panel Issues Memo to Indian Envoy *[Delhi Radio]* 39
Spokesman Rejects Akali Dal-Mann Charge *[Delhi Radio]* 39
Explosion Kills 4 in Andhra Pradesh 1 Apr *[Delhi Radio]* 39

Iran

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayers *[IRNA]* 39
Ayatollah Khamene'i Delivers Second Sermon *[Tehran Radio]* 41
Karrubi Addresses Anniversary Gathering *[Tehran Radio]* 44
Tehran Cites Fadlallah on Israeli 'Aggression' *[Tehran International]* 47

UN Told of Iraqi Cross-Border Raids *[IRNA]* 47
Velayati, ANC Official Discuss 'Struggles' *[Tehran Radio]* 47
Rafsanjani Receives ANC's Nzo *[IRNA]* 47
Industry Minister Discusses Trade With Sweden *[IRNA]* 48
Results of Swedish Trip Noted *[IRNA]* 48
Minster Announces More Hard Currency for Industry *[IRNA]* 48
Agriculture Minister Returns From New Zealand *[IRNA]* 48
Delegation Leaves For Cyprus Conference *[Tehran Radio]* 49
Three Satellite TV Stations Commissioned *[Tehran Radio]* 49
New Satellite Ground Stations in Khorasan Province *[Tehran Radio]* 49

Nepal

Foreign Minister's Resignation Reported *[Delhi Radio]* 49
Major Cabinet Change Said To Induct 'Hardliners' *[Delhi Radio]* 49
'Liberal' Ministers Removed in 'Major' Reshuffle *[AFP]* 50
New Cabinet Membership Reported *[AFP]* 50
Indian Delegation Arrives for Official Talks *[Delhi Radio]* 51
Talks Begin 1 April *[Delhi Radio]* 51
Talks, Demonstrations Continue *[Delhi Radio]* 51
Talks Reportedly Fail *[AFP]* 51
Continuing Protest in Patton Reported *[Delhi Radio]* 52
Medical Workers Strike To Protest Detentions *[Tokya KYODO]* 52
Schools Closed in 3 Townships Following Violence *[AFP]* 52
Over 25,000 Demonstrate in Kathmandu Suburb *[AFP]* 52
Over 50,000 Participate in Antigovernment Rally *[AFP]* 53
Police Fire on Kirtipur Demonstrators; 3 Killed *[AFP]* 53
Eight Others Injured *[Tokyo KYODO]* 53

Pakistan

Bhutto Rules Out Seeking Fresh Confidence Vote *[Islamabad Radio]* 54
Yaqub Khan Refutes Kabul Charges to UN Chief *[Islamabad Radio]* 54
Hyderabad Situation Peaceful; Arms Raids Continue *[Islamabad Radio]* 54
Bhutto First Contributor to Kashmir Relief Fund *[Islamabad Radio]* 54
Hizballah Leader Visits Kashmir, Pledges Support *[THE NATION 31 Mar]* 54

Sri Lanka

LTTE Leader Out of Hiding; No Arms Surrender *[AFP]* 55
LTTE Frees Captured Indian Fishermen, Boats *[AFP]* 55
New Ministers To Help Achieve Government Goals *[Colombo International]* 56

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Issues Statement on Iraqi-British Ties

LD3103060790 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] The Arab League General Secretariat expressed its great surprise at the negative developments in British-Iraqi relations due to allegations of attempts by Iraq to smuggle components of nuclear weapons.

In a statement released on 30 March, the Arab League General Secretariat stressed Iraq's right, as any other country, to benefit from the transfer of technology. It noted Iraq has refuted the allegations made regarding that, and stressed it has not noticed any violation of the Nonprolifiration of Nuclear Weapons Treaty by Iraq. In its statement, the Arab League General Secretariat recalled the statement issued by the Arab League Council at its extraordinary session on 26 March, in which complete solidarity with Iraq was expressed. The General Secretariat expressed its hope the British authorities will exercise self-control and also consider the importance of Arab-British relations. It also called on the sides which now express concern over the possibility of Iraq possessing nuclear weapons to demonstrate the same firmness regarding Israel—which all the evidence indicates it has been a nuclear power for some time.

ACC Deplores UK, Western 'Campaigns Against Iraq'

JN3103174490 Amman Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] The Secretariat General of the Arab Cooperation Council, the ACC, has deplored British and Western media campaigns against Iraq.

In a statement issued in Amman today, it said the aim of such campaigns is to build a public opinion against Iraq and create an excuse for an attack against that country.

The ACC Secretariat General said it regards the campaigns as interference in Iraq's internal affairs and attack on its right for protecting its security and national integrity. It added the campaigns are misleading the world's public opinion and directing it from the issue of the Soviet Jewish influx into the occupied Arab lands.

However, the ACC secretariat stressed its keenness to promote ties between the Council's member states and Britain, as well as Western European countries. It called on the British Government to halt the campaign which threatened both Middle East and world peace.

Committee To Seek Iraqi-Syrian Reconciliation

JN0104150690 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 31 Mar 90 pp 1, 22

[By 'Atif 'Awdah]

[Excerpt] Tunis—AL-ITTIHAD has learned the mini-summit conducted in the Libyan city of Tubruq, which Presidents Husni Mubarak, Hafiz al-Asad, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and 'Umar al-Bashir attended, agreed to set up a quadpartite Arab committee to clear the Arab atmosphere, especially between Syria and Iraq.

A high-level Arab source told AL-ITTIHAD the topic was discussed during the Tubruq talks, and that it was decided to set up a committee made up of delegates from Libya, Algeria, Jordan, and Egypt. The source asserted the committee's main objective is to find common ground for a reconciliation between Syria and Iraq, and to cleanse the Arab atmosphere.

The source added President al-Asad agreed to the formation of this committee, and that his talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak dealt with the need to achieve reconciliation between Syria and Iraq to find a settlement to the Middle East question—based mainly on convening an international peace conference—and to confront Soviet Jewish immigration to the occupied Arab territories.

The source also said Jordan and Algeria agreed to take part in the committee, which is expected to begin its work this week at the highest level.

The source added the results of the Tubruq summit were very significant, and that the summit stressed the need for Arab solidarity to face future threats. [passage omitted]

Council Urges Kuwait Stay, Adopts Its Proposals

JN3103085390 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 31 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The Council for Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) urged Kuwait Friday not to quit the group and said it had adopted Kuwaiti proposals to improve its performance.

The 13-member council asked it to "stay with its brethren during these tough conditions which the Arab Nation is passing through and which demand more Arab solidarity."

Kuwait said last week it was leaving the council because it had rejected several proposals for improvements.

In a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the Amman-based council said it had adopted all the suggestions.

These included defining its role to avoid duplication with similar Arab organisations, cutting salaries and staff and trimming the budget elsewhere.

Kuwait previously covered nearly a third of the council's budget but had failed to pay its dues for the past four years and now owes more than $1.5 million. The council, set up in 1964 to promote economic union, is an Arab League institution but participation is optional for league members.

Urging the Kuwaiti government to reconsider its decision, the statement said the CAEU General Secretariat "finds the circumstances through which collective Arab action, in general and economic action in particular, warrant more understanding and solidarity as a means of confronting dangers facing the Arab World, particularly Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine and the dangers threatening some Arab countries."

The statement said that the CAEU General Secretariat appreciates Kuwait's keen interest in joint Arab action and its aspirations that this action be a model for inter-Arab relations and all Kuwait's proposals to the council would be implemented.

"The CAEU will have a new organisational structure and will cut the salaries of the employees up to 25 per cent, and reduce about 25 per cent of its staff, review its holdings, define a budget ceiling at $1,150,000 from $3,500,000.

This will reduce Kuwait's contribution to 23.73 per cent instead of 27.78 per cent—a reduction to about $218,000 annually instead of $800,000."

The Arab World, with its national institutions, "is witnessing a restructuring period which will lead to Arab solidarity," it said. "The effective Egyptian participation in these institutions, which was achieved recently, has put them in a position to start once again with a new spirit...these aspects as a whole are a strong motive for Kuwait to reverse its decision," it said.

Palestinian Affairs

Paper Publishes 'Islamic Army' Statement

JN0104071590 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 1 Apr 90 p 1

[By P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—An unknown fundamentalist Islamic group has threatened to attack American interests in the Middle East and vowed to kill American officials around the world in retaliation to what it described as Washington's involvement in anti-Arab campaigns.

The Islamic Army for the Liberation of Palestine also vowed to strike at Polish airports, airline offices, jetliners and government offices around the world for facilitating the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel and the occupied territories.

In a one-page statement made available to the JORDAN TIMES Saturday, the previously unknown group also vowed similar attacks on the governments of the Soviet Union and the United Kingdom.

The warning came one day after a shooting attack on a Polish diplomat and his Lebanese-born wife in Beirut. Another unknown group claimed responsibility for the attack.

"The Islamic Army for the Liberation of Palestine warns that it will blow up 173 American companies operating in the Arab Gulf region and assassinate important American personalities, including American ambassadors," said the statement, dated March 25.

The one-page handwritten statement in Arabic said the warnings against U.S. officials and interests was in response to "Washington's threats to Muslim Libya, especially against al-Rabitah plant."

The group was referring to this month's fire at a chemical plant in Libya, which the U.S. had charged was producing chemical weapons but Libya said it was a pharmaceutical factory.

The statement warned: "Any aggression against any Muslim country is considered an aggression on all Muslims and the perpetrators will regret their actions."

The group also threatened Warsaw for "increasing its air flights to Israel carrying Soviet Jewish immigrants to the occupied territories."

"Therefore, the general command of the Islamic Army warns that Polish airlines offices and Polish embassies will be blown up at any feasible time anywhere in the world and Polish ambassadors and embassy staff will be physically liquidated," it added.

It vowed similar attacks on the Soviet Union's embassies and offices, but promised to halt such actions "if these countries retracted their decision to permit Soviet Jews to immigrate to Palestine or allowed the Jews to enter their countries."

The group's statement comes in wake of other protests and campaigns by Arab governments over the expected wave of Soviet Jewish emigres to Israel and the possibility that the bulk of them could be settled in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The statement followed a series of other leaflets by hardline Islamic factions in the Arab World vowing attacks against U.S. officials and threats against Moscow's interests in the Middle East.

Several Amman-based Islamic factions flatly denied any relationship to the group.

But sources at the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood party, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that the Islamic Army for the Liberation of Palestine was a "new party" based in a neighbouring country and is an affiliate to Hamas and al-Jihad al-Islami factions. They warned the government of the United Kingdom for its alleged campaign on Iraq for the recent execution of British journalist Farzad Bazoft who was sentenced to death by an Iraqi revolutionary court earlier this month on charges of spying for Britain and Israel.

"We will shut up the government of the United Kingdom by any suitable means if England does not halt its campaign against Muslim Iraq," the statement said.

Further on Group's Threats

NC3103193690 Paris AFP in English 1924 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Amman, March 31 (AFP)—An unknown group reportedly linked to Palestinian activists in the occupied territories Saturday threatened Poland and the Soviet Union with reprisals over the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

The Islamic Army Front for the Liberation of Palestine, in statements received by a Western news agency here, also threatened Britain and the United States over what it said were campaigns and threats against Iraq and Libya.

The group threatened to "blast Polish airline offices and Polish embassy buildings and assassinate diplomats wherever possible" in response to Warsaw's offer earlier this week to help Soviet Jews emigrate to Israel.

It also threatened Soviet embassies and diplomats "unless Warsaw and Moscow renounce their decisions to enable the emigration of Soviet Jews to Palestine."

Poland said Saturday it had stepped up security at its missions abroad after a Polish commercial attache, Bogdan Serkis, and his wife were wounded by gunmen in Syrian-controlled West Beirut the previous day.

Another unknown group, the Organisation of Revolutionary Action-Arab Resistance Front, claimed responsibility for the shooting and threatened to strike again if Warsaw helped Soviet Jews travel to Israel.

Informed sources said the Islamic Army Front was close to the fundamentalist Palestinian militant group Hamas, based in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip.

The Front threatened to "reduce Britain to silence... unless London stops its campaign against Muslim Iraq," referring to British reprisals for the execution of journalist Farzad Bazoft and the revelation in London of an alleged plot to smuggle nuclear detonator parts to Iraq.

It also vowed to "destroy 173 U.S. firms operating in the Gulf and to assassinate U.S. figures, including diplomats, if the United States continues to threaten Muslim Libya notably over the al-Rabitah pharmaceutical plant."

Washington and other Western countries maintain that al-Rabitah, recently damaged by a fire, has been making chemical weapons. Tripoli denies the charges.

Arab states have voiced mounting concern over the expected arrival of up to 200,000 Soviet Jews in Israel this year, fearing that the immigrants may be settled in the occupied territories.

Jibril Demands 'Arafat's Resignation at Rally

JN3103210090 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Excerpts] The leadership of the Palestine National Salvation Front [PNSF] conducted a speech rally yesterday in al-Yarmuk camp in Damascus to mark Land Day. The rally was attended by Khalid al-Fahum, [former] speaker of the Palestine National Council; members of the PNSF command; members of the Ba'th Party Regional Command and National Command; representatives of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement, Arab and world liberation movements, and Palestinian popular organizations; and a large number of citizens.

The following speeches were delivered at the rally:

Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, delivered a speech on behalf of the PNSF.

Rashid Akhtarini, member of the party's Regional Command, delivered a speech on behalf of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

'Isam al-Mahayiri, leader of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party-Emergency Command, delivered a speech on behalf of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement.

Mrs. Siham Rahhal, member of the general secretariat of the Palestinian Women's Federation, delivered a speech on behalf of the Palestinian popular organizations.

Mr. Ahmad Jibril began his speech by reviewing Land Day's historical background in the Palestinian Galilee 14 years ago, then discussed the settlement program in the Palestinian and Arab arenas. [passage omitted]

Mr. Jibril denounced the position taken by Palestinian leaders who confine the dangers of the Jewish immigration threat to the territory occupied in 1967, that is, to the West Bank and Gaza, an area that constitutes only 17 percent of the Palestinian territory, while ignoring the dangers posed by the immigration to the whole of Palestine—in the Triangle, Galilee, and the Negev—and the importance of immigration to the Zionist project and its expansionist aims.

Referring to the coming phase, Ahmad Jibril asked: Is there any hope the PLO leadership that holds power might retract its policy, reconsider its position, and return to reason? We say: No, there is no hope. We therefore demand a unity of the groups that still believe in armed struggle and fighting against the enemy. We present a basic demand, namely, the resignation of the leadership in power, which accuses us of radicalism and extremism. Why? Because we say we will not drop the right to return.

Within this context, Hani al-Hasan ['Arafat's political adviser] gave a lecture in London recently in which he said they had decided to recognize the Zionist entity in 1968 and to begin the so-called peace process but they were afraid of the extremists and radicals.

Ahmad Jibril said: In view of the failure of the concessions program and the so-called peace plans, the PLO leadership should resign and Mr. 'Arafat should resign. Jibril said our people and nation are in good condition, that the heroic intifadah exists throughout Palestine and the Golan Heights, and that the Arab nation will not remain idle against the defeatists and capitulators. If we accept humiliation once, it will be easy to accept it all the time. [passage omitted]

Rashid Akhtarini, member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, after reviewing the militant values of the Land Day, said in his speech: The 30th of March has been transformed into a symbol of the Palestinian Arab people and their adherence to their land and identity, despite the methods of oppression, terror, and displacement, which the neo-Nazis are practicing in Palestine. He said Land Day is the day of the uprising of the oppressed against the intruders and those who are supported by U.S. imperialism and world Zionism.

Akhatarini emphasized the Palestinian issue is the Arab nation's cause and the cause of all free men the world over, and that the Arab-Zionist struggle represents the main anomaly [tanaqud] in our region, and all the Arab forces that are committed to the nation's interests and future should set aside the other anomalies and direct all their resources to solving the main anomaly according to justice, rights, and our people's legitimate ambitions to restore their rights and decide their own destiny. [passage omitted]

Islamic Front 'Land Day' Call Reported

JN0104181790 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1645 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] The Islamic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [al-jabhah al-Islamiyah litahrir Filastin] distributed a call under the headline "Land Call" from Amman, Jordan, the day before yesterday on the 14th anniversary of the Palestinian Land Day uprising. In the call, the Front hailed the struggle and steadfastness of our Palestinian people on the soil of our Arab land, which has been occupied since 1948. On Land Day, our people expressed their affiliation, Arabism, cause, identity, unity, and cohesion with their kinfolk in the Palestinian West Bank and Gaza Strip. They also expressed their adherence to their legitimate right and all forms, ways, aspects of their just, sacred, and armed jihad to regain their liberty as well as their firm, legitimate, and inalienable national rights in the territories of their entire homeland.

The call says: Palestinian Land Day has a very great meaning and noble goals. It is the day of all Palestine, and will become the day of all the Arabs and Muslims. The Land Day uprising was the first militant spark and a prominent prelude to the start of the popular intifadah revolution, which is granting us brave and honorable victories today. The call also stresses that America is the first real enemy to us and to our cause, and that this requires the unification of efforts and ranks faithfully, strongly, and resolutely.

The Front's call urges the Arab and Islamic governments to be aware of the danger of the goals of the expansionist Zionist movement, and to strongly confront the Jewish emigration. It also urges the PLO leadership to resort to the military option, return to the real struggle and jihad, and to refrain from panting after the U.S. and Zionist mirage and deception. It also warns of the dangers emigration poses to the continuation of the intifadah and the unity of our people.

The call condemns Baker's plan, as well as all the capitulatory plans and projects, and rejects the tripartite meeting scheduled for Cairo or any other place. It urges the PLO leadership to quickly refuse to attend that meeting. The call also condemns all the meetings between PLO and Palestinian figures inside and outside Palestine with Jewish forces, calling for an immediate end to this. It also calls for the need to purge all the PLO's organs, institutions, and departments of the corrupt and the defeatists, as well as of those who are tampering with the destinies of our people and their revolution, cause, and rights.

The Front's call also urges all militant and honest national forces of the Palestinian masses to firmly confront all the defeatist and capitulatory policies in the organization. It calls for more unity of ranks, for jihad, for struggle and resistance, for escalating the intifadah, and for the need to revolutionize the Palestinian territories, which were occupied in 1948, until the Palestinian revolution covers all the Palestinian land.

Palestinian Official Speaks at Land Day Rally

LD3103114690 Kuwait KUNA in English 1026 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Kuwait, March 31 (KUNA)—A ranking Palestinian official said the Soviet Jewish emigration to occupied Palestine was too great a conspiracy for Palestinians to face alone and called for support from Arab, Islamic and non-aligned countries.

Deputy speaker of the Palestinian parliament in exile, Salim al-Za'num, told a rally here last night the Soviet Union had been tricked by the United States and Israel into allowing the Jewish exodus to Israel as Moscow sought to rid itself from the stigma of human rights violations.

Al-Za'num, who is also executive committee member of the PLO's largest component Fatah, said the Soviet Union should act more seriously to prevent Israel from settling Soviet Jews in occupied Arab territories.

Al-Za'num said the occupied Palestine was too small to accommodate an aditional three million Jews who are expected to arrive in the coming few years.

Referring to Israel's expansionist designs in lieu with the influx of emigrants, the Palestinian official said "the battle no longer concerns Palestinians alone... it's no longer the battle for South Lekan, or (Syrian heights of) Gola it's rather the battle of all the Arab and Islamic nations," he said. Al-Za'num charged that the U.S.-Israeli peace plan of last year and proposed elections in the occupied areas where designed to create a rift among Palestinians.

But the Palestinian leadership dodged the trap, Al-Za'num said, pointing out that the scheme backfired cracking the Israeli Government and bringing down the ruling coalition.

The rally, marking the 16th anniversary of the Palestinian Land Day, was attended by Arab ambassadors and addressed by representatives of Palestinian and Kuwaiti popular organizations.

Statements Aim at 'Distorting' PLO's Image

JN0204091990 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 2 Apr 90 pp 1,18

[By Nabil 'Amr]

[Text] Amman—Al-Tayyib 'Abd al-Rahim, ambassador of the state of Palestine in Amman, has declared the suspicious statements issued recently in the names of the so-called "Unified Leadership in Jordan", "Palestinian Leadership", and " Muslim Palestinian Youths" are aimed at distorting the PLO's image. They also are an attempt to split the ranks of the one Jordanian and Palestinian people through a Lebanon-type crisis, which Zionist enemy agencies are trying to provoke. It furthermore is an attempt to negatively affect the blessed intifadah in the occupied homeland.

In an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR, the ambassador of the state of Palestine said these statements also are aimed at distorting the democratic image presented by Jordan through the false names and alleged leaderships fabricated by agencies hostile to this democratic atmosphere.

'Abd al-Rahim called for the need to be alert to the dangers posed by such statements which, he said, are signed by false names. He also called upon the sons of the one people to close their ranks and deprive the Zionist enemy of any opportunity to undermine our national unity. He said: We must stand as one solid rank against the enemy's expansionist designs and attempts to set up the so-called substitute homeland and Greater Israel.

The Palestinian ambassador affirmed the existing close Jordanian- Palestinian ties and mutual trust between the Jordanian and Palestinian leaderships.

Negotiations With USSR Avert Direct Flights

JN0104153890 Manama WAKH in English 1515 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Doha, 1 April (GNA)—Member of the PLO Executive Committee Sulayman al-Najjab says that contacts between the PLO and the Soviet Union has succeeded in precluding an agreement that was about to be signed between the Israeli and Soviet airlines to carry Soviet Jewish emigrants directly to Israel.

In an interview published in Qatari 'AL-'ARAB' newspaper, the Palestinian official said that the Soviet Union was under heavy pressure from the U.S. and other countries to conclude the agreement.

Moscow also agreed on a PLO request to increase awareness in the Soviet Union about the dangers of Jewish emigration to Palestine on the Palestinian people, Al-Najjab said.

'Arafat Seeks Italy's Influence Over EEC

JN0104191790 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, has warned of a war in the Middle East. He said any future war will be very serious and long. In a press interview to be published in Rome on Monday, brother 'Arafat said the future war will not be a picnic or a lightning war for the Zionist entity, because the myth of the invincible Zionist army has ended.

Brother 'Arafat added that in his talks with Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, he will ask Italy play a role in convincing the enemy authorities of the need to achieve peace in Palestine. Regarding this, he expressed the hope that during its chairmanship of the EEC, scheduled to start on 1 June, Italy will influence its European partners to pressure Israel.

During his two-day visit to Rome, Brother 'Arafat will meet with Italian President Francesco Cossiga, Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, and senior Italian officials, as well as Pope John Paul II of the Vatican.

ALF Secretary General on Senate Resolution

JN3103201890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1740 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Tunis, 31 Mar (INA)—'Abd-al-Rahim Ahmad, secretary general of the Arab Liberation Front [ALF], has affirmed the U.S. Senate's resolution to consider Jerusalem the capital of the Zionist entity indicates the United States and the Zionist authorities have identical goals and policies.

In a statement to INA in Tunis today, the ALF secretary general described the U.S. position on the Palestine question as one that can do nothing but respond to

Zionist ambitions, which puts U.S. credibility in doubt when it comes to the Palestinian question and the Arab nation's causes.

He also said the U.S. resolution is a new factor of tension and a blow to peace efforts, which Washington claims to be eager to promote. He said the resolution also harms the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state.

The ALF secretary general then called for the establishment of genuine and effective Arab solidarity to confront the dangers threatening pan-Arab security as a result of hostile measures against the Arab nation and to urge the international community to condemn and denounce these measures and pronounce them null and illegal.

OPEC Affairs

OPEC Said To End Quotas, Production Ceilings

LD3103115690 Kuwait KUNA in English 0854 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Kuwait, March 31 (KUNA)—OPEC will implement Kuwait's proposal in cancelling the quota system and eliminate production ceiling in accordance with the changes in the oil market, a Kuwaiti daily said Saturday.

Daily AL-SIYASAH said that this move needs time before comprehensive implementation.

Kuwait at the beginning of the year suggested cancelling OPEC'S quota system and returning to free production in line with prospects of an increase in world demand during the coming years to standards that are above OPEC'S production.

The daily said that Kuwait's point of view was being accepted and understood by OPEC members even though the issue was not discussed in the recent Vienna meeting of OPEC'S pricing committee.

World oil circles described Kuwait's suggestion as "realistic and scientific" because non-OPEC oil exporting countries had reached the highest level of production, the daily added.

Free production will not flood the oil market and consequently result in a crisis similar to that in 1982 because major production capacity will be limited to three countries, the daily said without naming them.

Algeria

Delegation's Meeting With Shevardnadze Reported

LD3003225690 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Nassereddine Hassad, the Algerian Foreign Ministry secretary general, met Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Moscow yesterday evening. Nasserddine Hassad led a delegation in response to an invitation by Yuriy Vorontsov, USSR deputy foreign minister.

In addition to bilateral relations, the two parties discussed several international issues. In this context, the Algerian delegation expressed its strong preoccupation regarding the massive immigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied territories in contempt of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and the wish of the international community and bodies. The two delegations stressed that a comprehensive, just, and lasting settlement of the crisis in the Middle East can only be achieved within the framework of an international conference with the participation of all the concerned parties including the Palestinian Liberation Organization, PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The Algerian and Soviet parties also expressed their conviction that the solution of the Lebanese crisis lies in the respect of the legality as defined by the Lebanese themselves in the al-Taif agreement and approved by the whole international community.

Social-Liberal Party Presents Platform

LD0104162790

[Editorial Report] Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic at 1200 GMT on 1 April broadcasts a nine-minute program devoted to the Social-Liberal Party.

Mr Cherif Hamza, official in charge of the party organization, recalls that the party has decided not to directly participate in the 12 June municipal elections. He cites the haste with which the elections were announced and the lack of preparation time prior to the elections as reasons for this decision.

He says the Social-Liberal Party has decided to support independent candidates in these elections and that, therefore, any would-be independent candidates for the June elections are invited to contact the party for support. The party will undertake the election campaign on their behalf and will monitor the polling process, he says, adding that the party will not ask anyone to join it in turn after the elections and that this would be an individual free decision to do so.

Opposition Adopts Stand on Postponing Elections

LD0104194890 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] In the political life in our country, and in light of the preparations for the coming municipal and provincial election campaign, a group of parties agreed to adopt a joint stand toward postponing the elections. This came in a statement issued today by the Popular Association for Unity and Action. The statement points out that the stand came after the 31 March meeting at the al-Safir hotel among representatives of the following parties:
—The Algerian Renewal Party,
—The Socialist Vanguard Party,
—The National Front for Innovation,
—The Man is Capital Party,
—The Popular Unity Party,
—The Social Liberal Party,
—The Popular Association for Unity and Action,
—The Democratic Movement for Algerian Renewal,
—The Social Democratic Party, and
—The Algerian National Party.

According to the statement, a committee will be formed of the officials of these parties to conduct the dialogue which comes within the framework of national coalition.

Egypt

Butrus Ghali Returns From Paris, Geneva 30 Mar

NC3103060290 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Cairo from Geneva tonight after visits to Paris and Geneva. He said upon his arrival that he will submit a report to President Husni Mubarak on the results of the talks Geneva and Paris.

Dr. Ghali added that he met in Paris with the French foreign minister within the framework of the continuous consultations between Egypt and France. He said that their discussions dealt with African issues, results of Egypt's discussions with heads of state in Namibia, and Egypt's efforts to bolster the discussions that are now taking place with the apartheid government in South Africa. He said they reviewed the results of the meetings of the committee on South Africa which were held in Zambia and the efforts to resolve the African differences, particularly those between Chad and Libya and between Senegal and Mauritania.

Dr. Ghali further said that he met with the chairman of the International Red Cross in Geneva and that they discussed the prisoners of the Gulf war as well as African issues. He also met with the WHO director to discuss cooperation between WHO and the Egyptian fund for technical aid to Namibia and the dispatch of some Egyptian doctors to this state.

In conclusion, Dr. Ghali said that he met also with the UN assistant secretary general in Geneva, raising the question of a seminar in Cairo before the end of this year to discuss the issues of the African man's rights.

Reportage on U.S. Senate Resolution on Jerusalem

Government 'Dissatisfied'

JN3103163690 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 30 Mar 90 pp 1, 7

[By 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Excerpt] In the past two days, Egypt informed the U.S. Administration, through the Egyptian Embassy in Washington that it was dissatisfied with the U.S. Senate's decision to consider occupied Jerusalem the capital of Israel. Egypt asserted that the decision violates all international laws and conventions relating to the status of territories under military occupation. Egypt also expressed its extreme displeasure with the U.S. decision and pointed out that such decisions will obstruct any attempt to boost the peace process in the Middle East and will escalate tension in the region.

Meanwhile, during the past week Egypt made a series of contacts with Arab capitals—primarily Amman, Baghdad, Sanaa, Damascus, and Tripoli—to discuss how to respond to the U.S. decision. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Comments

NC3103173690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1616 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 31 Mar (MENA)—A responsible source in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has stated that East Jerusalem is an integral part of the West Bank occupied by Israel in 1967 and that the Palestinians have legitimate and historical rights that cannot be ignored.

Commenting on the non-binding resolution passed by the U.S. Congress last week declaring East Jerusalem [as received] the capital of Israel, the source said that any unilateral attempt to change the legal status of East Jerusalem runs counter to the basic rules of international law and constitutes a clear violation of the international resolutions concerning the Middle East issue.

The source stressed that a solution to the Middle East issue, including the status of Jerusalem, cannot be attained by passing resolutions calling for the recognition of situations lacking legal support.

The Foreign Ministry source appealed to all international and local parties concerned with the cause of peace in the region to back the ongoing efforts to promote the peace process through dialogue and negotiations that guarantee all the parties' rights and take into consideration all regional problems, thus serving the hopes for progress, development, and prosperity of the peoples of the region.

Newspaper Criticizes Resolution

NC0204112690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0718 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 2 Apr (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR has criticized a decision by the U.S. Senate to the effect that Arab Jerusalem should remain united and be recognized as capital of Israel.

In a commentary in today's edition, the paper says: It seems that the same megalomania that makes Israel place itself above all international laws, conventions, and treaties has spread to the U.S. Senate, at least insofar as its position on Arab Jerusalem is concerned.

The paper adds: The U.S. Senate has given itself the right to violate all international laws and the UN Charter and decided to donate Arab Jerusalem to Israel, thus establishing an alarming precedent in international law, one which others may try to repeat in other times and circumstances. This action, the paper says, has serious implications for international peace and security.

The paper says that the U.S. Senate has been carried away by its excessive partiality toward Israel and international Zionism and has exceeded its limits, powers, and legislative role. The Senate, the paper says, has no right to grant a piece of land belonging to a one nation to another.

AL-AKHBAR concludes by stating that the decision of the U.S. Congress will be ineffectual and that nothing can annul the right of the Palestinian people to their land and homeland.

AL-AKHBAR Denounces 'Campaigns' Against Iraq

NC0104055090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2213 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 31 Mar (MENA)—Egypt's AL-AKHBAR has denounced the current ferocious media campaigns by Britain and the United States against Iraq.

In its main editorial in Sunday's edition entitled "Unjust Campaign and Suspicious Aims," the paper says these campaigns are not aimed only at Iraq. The staging of these campaigns at this particular time and with this kind of coordination between the parties launching them signifies other and more extensive goals, it adds.

The paper asserts that Britain used the execution of the Iranian-born British spy in Iraq as a pretext for launching an unfair campaign against Iraq; this is unjustifiable by all criteria.

The paper links the current campaign against Iraq to the true goal of the U.S. role in assisting Israel to implement its massive criminal plan to devour what remains of the occupied Palestinian land in order to settle Soviet Jews there.

The paper notes that the U.S. Administration and Congress have launched another campaign to divert attention from the greater crime through a fake accusation. The U.S. intelligence of which Washington is proud could have easily discovered that it was false without the U.S. Government's being forced to retract its accusation a few days later in an ignominious manner not suiting a superpower.

In conclusion, the paper asks about the role of Arab media and media men in this respect. It calls for coordination and use of all available potential to expose the goals of this suspicious campaign and to explain its true meaning with utmost frankness and clarity.

Source Says No New People's Assembly Elections

JN0104121290 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 30 Mar 90 p 17

[By Muhammad Zayid]

[Text] A senior responsible source has asserted to me that the government will implement the Administrative Court verdict of 20 March, which cancels the interior minister's decision not to announce that 39 candidates of the Labor and Wafd parties won in the People's Assembly elections held on 6 April 1987. The same verdict also cancels the decision on the completion of the percentage of farmers and peasants on the lists of the two parties in each of their electorate areas.

The senior responsible source added that according to the government's natural response to a court decision it is totally untrue what was published by one of the opposition party newspapers about preparations at the Interior Ministry to hold new People's Assembly elections shortly—something that nobody has yet thought of.

Commentator Deplores Attack on Polish Diplomat

NC0104155090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Commentary by Bahiy-al-Din Shu'ayb: "The Situation Is Too Serious To Be Left in the Hands of Adventurers"]

[Excerpts] We must agree first of all that the circumstances which the Arab nation is currently experiencing are difficult by any standards. The Arab nation is facing economic problems and is being challenged in a number of ways from all directions. [passage omitted]

A glance at the crises surrounding the Arab world reveals that they all require the maximum degree of self-restraint, political flexibility, and agreement on a unified plan of action, or at least a plan whose main outlines are agreed upon. Among these problems, for instance, is the wave of Soviet Jews immigrating to Israel. This problem is very complicated and difficult to handle. It cannot be solved through overreactions or with high-sounding statements, but needs a carefully studied multi-phase Arab plan of action. Therefore, when an Arab organization attempts to assassinate a Polish diplomat in protest against Poland's offer to transfer the Soviet Jewish immigrants to Israel after Hungary had backed down on this task, and when an Arab organization thinks that by using violence against the citizens of a foreign country it will stop the wave of Jewish immigration to Israel, it is dreaming—not to mention, unaware of the consequences of its actions.

We all must realize that those who opened the door of emigration and those who opened their doors to receive the immigrants could find many ways to transfer the newcomers. An attempt on the life of a Polish diplomat will only be used to turn the whole world against us at a time when we need friends. In a meeting with a group of Americans advocating the immigration of Soviet Jews, Yitzhaq Shamir said the world must open its eyes and ears to the Arab threats to blow up planes carrying Jewish immigrants, so that everyone will realize the strength of Arab rejection of the existence of Israel. He added that this issue revealed a consensus among both the terrorist organizations and the moderate countries. Israel wants to take advantage of such irresponsible and reckless incidents so that once again it may draw a picture of terrorist Arabs whose only concern is to annihilate the Jews.

There is no doubt that the issue of the immigration of Soviet Jews into Israel could cause some organizations to despair, seeing a traditional ally of the Palestinian cause doing Israel a service that Israel's traditional allies could not do in half a century. Despair could push these organizations to carry out reckless acts that would be extremely harmful to the Palestinian issue. But once such organizations lose their sound political grip, they must immediately give up politics, because the issue is too serious to be left in the hands of adventurers who are making mistakes and are unable to read the future.

We must remind everyone that the East European countries are in a politically volatile mood and that the degree of their sympathy for the Palestinian cause will never be the same as before. Political shrewedness demands that all Palestinian elements tread carefully in their relations with East Europe and use the ties of the past to build the relationship of the future. By assassinating Polish diplomats or threatening to blow up Hungarian planes, these Arab organizations will hand Israel the key to East Europe's door, and we believe that no sane Arab would accept such behavior. The current situation is difficult, as we said, and we cannot leave amateurs or adventurers to deal with it. All that is needed is a carefully studied Arab plan of action to face up to the tide. We must say that things are happening too fast for us to cope with them.

Atomic Energy Program, Reactors Discussed

NC0104143590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 1 Apr (MENA)—Engineer Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy, has emphasized that the Egyptian nuclear research program is clear and

declared. It is in line with Egyptian policy, which seeks to make the Middle East a nuclear-free area, he stated.

In a statement today, Minister Abazah said that Egypt has signed the nonproliferation treaty and that the Egyptian nuclear research program is subject to the supervision and control of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which has its headquarters in Vienna.

Meanwhile, Dr. Fawzi Hammad, chairman of the Atomic Energy Authority, has commented on recent reports that Argentina and other states have participated in the construction of a 20-megawatt nuclear reactor. He said that the Atomic Energy Authority is seeking to build a second reactor for technical research and studies in Egypt but that no decision has yet been made on the parties that are to participate in its construction.

He noted that Egypt has invited international tenders for the project and that several international companies, including an Argentine company, have made offers which are still being considered.

IAEA Sources Cited on Elat Chemical Facility

NC0204072990 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] Sources at the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] in Vienna say that for some time now Israel has been operating a factory in southern Elat for treating and utilizing (mu'alajat wa istighlal) chemical substances. According to the sources, the factory is currently operating with a capacity to produce 40 tons per year. Among the factory's products are poison gas bombs that the Israeli occupation forces are using to repress the Palestinian intifadah in the occupied Arab territories.

Iraq To Pay Workers' Claims 'Within Six Months'

JN3003063890 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 28 Mar 90 p 6

[By Hisham Mubarak and Walid 'Aziz]

[Excerpt] Sa'd 'Abd-al-Razzaq, manager of al-Rafidayn Bank in Cairo, has affirmed to AL-AKHBAR that $130 million in remittances to Egyptian workers in Iraq have been disbursed so far. He added that the entire sum of the Egyptians' remittances will be dispensed within six months on a date precedence basis.

The bank manager said the bank is overcrowded these days, because all the workers want their remittances before the beginning of the month of Ramadan and 'Id al-Fitr holidays. However, he said, the bank's capacity allows for disbursement only on the basis of a plan that takes into consideration date precedence and critical cases. He added that about 940 money orders worth $750 million were disbursed within five hours yesterday. [passage omitted]

Libya

People's Bureau Protests Expulsions From Ethiopia

LD0104152390 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1415 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Arab Maghreb Union pool item]

[Text] Tripoli, 1 Apr (JANA)—The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation this morning summoned the Ethiopian charge d'affaires in the Great Jamahiriyah and informed him of the Great Jamahiriyah's strong protest against the Ethiopian Government's decision to expel two employees of the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in Addis Ababa, on the grounds that the measure is unjustifiable as the two had not done anything incompatible with the nature of their work.

The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation asked the Ethiopian charge d'affaires for an official explanation of the Ethiopian Government's measure.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Envoy Representing U.S.

LD0104103690 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1015 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Tripoli, 31 al-Rabi [March] (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has received the Belgian ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah in his capacity as representative of U.S. interests in the Jamahiriyah.

legate Asks UN To Halt Jewish Immigration

)104114090 Baghdad INA in English 1010 GMT pr 90

kt] Baghdad, Apr 1, INA—Iraq on Friday called on United Nations Security Council to halt the mass nigration of Soviet Jews into Palestine. Speaking ing the Security Council deliberations on the Jewish nigration into occupied Palestine, Iraq's UN perma- t representative demanded that states concerned uld work to halt the Soviet Jews inflm [as received] Palestine and to provide guarantees that Jewish nigrants would not be settled in the occupied Pales- an territories.

Iraqi UN ambassador said in a speech that settle- nt of immigrants in the land of Palestinians poses a matic development and an unprecedented colonial ve in the 20th century which has witnessed the lidation of colonialism and the world peoples' right to determination. He criticized the basis on which this ts immigration is taking place as an application of the han rights declaration which allows every citizen to grate from the country he lives into another. There is such a thing in the human rights declaration as to aw a mass exodus from a certain country into an upied land which belongs to another people, namely Palestinians, without allowing the Palestinians who e expelled out of their land in violation of the UN neral Assembly resolutions return [sentence as ived], he said.

right to immigration, the Iraqi envoy added, does by any way mean the right to seize others' land, settle and tap its resources by force or other illegitimate ns as practised by Israel's occupation authorities nst the Palestinians in the occupied territories. The t to immigration would become a crime if it turns out e a willful scheme to displace the Palestinian people n their land and force them to go into diaspora, the i representative explained.

Iraqi UN representative told the Council that Israel resorted to the demographical expansion as part of nternational scheme aimed at undermining all inter- onal efforts to peacefully settle the Palestinian issue. el is also trying to create what it calls "Greater Israel" e expense of the rights of the Palestinians and other b countries, a state of affairs which threatens the b national security and could lead to a regional strophe.

el is showing total disregard to Security Council olution No. 465 of 1980 which stresses the illegiti- y of Israeli settlements in occupied Arab territories. el is moreover violating the Fourth Geneva Conven- . He called for the implementation of this resolution ch represents the minimum the Council can offer to re the right of the Palestinians to self-determination. went on to say that Iraq sees the Jewish new colonial sion as a severe blow to the ongoing peace efforts on the regional and international levels. Iraq also believes that this new wave of colonial invasion hampers the Palestinians' right to return to their homeland from which they were forced out by Israeli authorities and extremist terrorist organizations in contravention of the Fourth Geneva Convention and the International Declaration of Human Rights.

He demanded that states, specially those that extend official aid to Israel or condone aid given by Jewish organisations should make sure that this aid would not be used to facilitate the settlement of the immigrants into the occupied Palestinian territories. The Iraqi ambassador also demanded that the aid given to Israel should be conditional to Israel's commitment not to use it for this purpose.

Iraq also demanded that states from which Jews are emigrating should halt this exodus. He also called for finding a mechanism to follow up the measures and report to the UN Security Council on what ought to be taken to safeguard the Palestinians' rights.

UN Speech Reported

JN3103142090 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Iraq has urged the UN Security Council to pass an effective resolution to halt a new international crime against the Palestinian people—the crime of Soviet Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine. Addressing the Security Council, which has resumed its debate on this immigration, Iraq's representative at the United Nations said the Security Council should ask countries involved to halt the immigration and provide guarantees they will not allow Jewish immigrants to settle in the occupied territories.

He also said settling immigrants in the Palestinian people's territories constitutes a serious development and a colonialist precedent in the 20th century, which has witnessed the end of colonialism and the right of nations to self-determination.

Scud Missiles Said Deployed on Jordanian Border

JN3103145890 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] THE WASHINGTON TIMES says Iraq has deployed Scud-D surface-to-surface missiles on the border with Jordan, and that these missiles could hit targets in Israel and elsewhere. The paper adds these missiles could be equipped with nuclear warheads or chemical weapons.

Speaking to our correspondent for political affairs, Shlomo Ganor, Israeli sources confirmed this report, and said the foiling this week of the Iraqi attempt to smuggle trigger devices for nuclear bombs is considered decisive proof of Iraq's intention to produce nuclear weapons. The sources also noted U.S. President George Bush's statements and his concern over the danger of

nuclear proliferation in the Middle East and the threat to which friendly states might be exposed.

Italian Role in Missile Project Denied

AU3103152390 Rome ANSA in English 0812 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] (ANSA) Rome [no date as received]—Iraq denied receiving financing from Italy or any other source for the nation's plan to develop an intermediate range missile, named the Condor Project.

The Iraqi ambassador to Rome, Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, said Friday: "We have never received any economic or financial assistance from Italy or anyone else for financing the so-called Condor Project."

In his statement to the Italian news agency ANSA, the diplomat was responding to reports that a part of the unauthorized export credits extended to Iraq by the Atlanta, Georgia, branch of Italy's Banca Nazionale del Lavoro had helped finance the Baghdad government's missile program.

The ambassador went on to say that British, American, and Israeli charges that Iraq had attempted to smuggle in American-made nuclear weapons triggering devices was "a hoax and a provocation. Moreover, Iraq has signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and is prepared to accept any verification," Al-Sahhaf added.

With reference to the intermediate range Condor 2, said by British secret service sources to be intended as the launch vehicle for a future Iraqi nuclear warhead, the ambassador denied that his country is cooperating with Argentina on this project. "Iraq does not need this missile in that others with superior performances are already in production," he said.

"Speaking of Italian financing for the Condor signifies carrying out a campaign for damaging relations between Italy and Iraq, and this is the real objective of the provocation mounted by the Israelis with the British," said Al-Sahhaf.

He insisted that Italian-Iraqi relations are good and the two countries are seeking to broaden them.

Further on Saddam, 'Arafat Speeches at Rally

JN3003130090 Baghdad INA in English 1230 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, Mar 30, INA—President Saddam Husayn said last night enemies of the Arabs are trying to hinder Iraq's progress march. Speaking at a rally attended also by Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat marking the Land Day, President Saddam Husayn said that hostile resistance is mounting, a fact which indicates that the Arabs are making headway towards enemy positions.

"The fires are intensifying, whether by aggressors or through conspiracies, but the Iraqi people will not be worn down", President Husayn told the Land Day rally. "If they think we will be worn down...they are fully mistaken", the president said, adding that Israelis are incapable of encountering the Arabs when they (the Arabs) are determined to liberate Palestine. But when the Arabs are divided and preoccupied with their daily problems without considering their future, the plot is likely to pass, he said.

He added that the Arab nation including Iraq is now in a better position. "Just like we told the Iraqis and the Arabs when the challenge was at peak (during the Gulf war) on the eastern flank that we can see victory close at hand, I can safely say now that I feel as though I hold Abu-'Ammar's (Yasir 'Arafat) hand on victory course to Palestine", the president said.

Earlier, Palestinian president delivered a speech on the occasion pledging that the uprising in the Israeli occupied territories will continue until the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. 'Arafat told the rally that the Palestinians will resort to all possible means to achieve their goal of an independent state in the Israeli-occupied territories.

"We will enter Jerusalem victorious and will raise our flag on its walls", the Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman (PLO) said.

'Arafat said the Palestinians will continue the 27-month-old intifadah despite great sacrifices and suffering. He said nobody should underestimate the uprising, even if the protesters use only stones.

"The stone was able to overthrow the Israeli Government for the first time in history", he said, referring to the collapse of the Israeli Government of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. The collapse of the governing coalition came because of a rift between Shamir's Likud bloc and its coalition partner, the Labour Party, over U.S.-backed plans for peace talks with the Palestinians.

"I tell them (the Israeli leaders), we will fight you with stones, with rifles and with al-'Abid", 'Arafat said, referring to the missile which Iraq tested last December.

'Arafat criticized the Soviet Union for ignoring the Palestinians' rights by allowing the emigration of hundereds of thousands of Soviet Jews to Israel over the next few years.

"I say to them if you are talking about human rights, then where are the Palestinians' human rights"? he asked.

"Why don't they settle them in Australia"? he asked. 'It's empty'. [quotation marks as received]

Head of the Iraqi committee for the Support of the Palestinian Uprising, Minister of Information and Culture, Mr. Latif Nusayyif Jasim delivered a speech at the beginning of the rally hailing the heroic struggle of the Palestinians in defence of their values and rights. The

Palestinians are not fightir for their rights only but for the entire Arab nation, Mr. Jasim said.

Hungarian Finance Minister Arrives on Visit

JN0104113390 Baghdad INA in English 1000 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, Apr 1, INA—Hungarian Finance Minister Laszlo Bekesi arrived here today leading a delegation on a four-day visit to Iraq.

During the visit, the Hungarian minister would hold talks with Iraqi officials on means of developing cooperation relations in economic, commercial and financial fields.

Begins Official Talks

JN0104134290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1245 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Apr (INA)—Official talks between Iraq and Hungary began at the Ministry of Finance today. The talks, which were co-chaired by Muhammad Mahdi Salih, Iraqi minister of trade and acting minister of finance, and by Laszlo Bekesi, Hungarian minister of finance, centered on aspects of cooperation and economic relations between the two countries. The two sides also discussed ways to promote and expand economic and financial relations between Iraq and Hungary in the interest of the two friendly countries.

Agriculture Minister, Three Governors Sworn in

JN3103181890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud 'Abdallah al-Sabbagh was sworn in before President leader Saddam Husayn today on assuming the duties of his new post as minister of agriculture and irrigation.

Al-Anbar Governor Jasim Muhammad Khalaf al-Rikabi, Babylon Governor Karim Mahmud Husayn al-Mulla, and Dyala Governor Khadr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Duri also were sworn in on assuming the duties of their new posts. The swearing-in ceremony was attended by Local Government Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid.

Embassy Calls UK Accusations 'Groundless'

JN0104183590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] London, 1 Apr (INA)—The Iraqi Embassy in London has issued a press statement responding to British accusations against Iraq. In it the embassy said: The issue of Britain's accusations against Iraq has begun to unfold into a farce. Vicious efforts to collect evidence, confuse names, and incriminate innocent people have proved nothing but the falsehood of incrimination and the disclosure of ill intentions. These accusations thus no longer can deceive anyone.

The statement added: After accusing the manager of the Iraqi Airways of intelligence activity—he was an employee who knew nothing but the performance of his job—haphazard accusations continued to blindly implicate Iraq's permanent representative in Geneva in the alleged operation for a wicked purpose that is no secret to anyone; namely, to harm the leadership in Iraq.

It added: The haphazard accusations continued until they reached the firms dealing with Iraq, as though conducting trade with Iraq was prohibited or banned. The most wicked of these accusations was the one leveled against the Global Technical firm on the pretext of supplying Iraq with "naval war equipment." This firm undertakes servicing and training work for the Iraqi Navy. All its work was documented by Lloyds [of London] with the knowledge of the British Embassy in Baghdad, which has copies of its contracts as cited in a statement issued by the firm itself. It thus is no secret the British allegations and measures against Iraq are groundless and fall within the framework of the tendentious informational and political campaign against it.

The Iraqi Embassy in London said in its statement: As we deny any commercial or industrial link between Iraq and any party, we would like to make it clear the question being exploited by this tendentious campaign is nothing more than a legal deal with this company to purchase electrical capacitors—a deal that was arranged through open telex contacts. In its capacity as the buyer, at the request of the British company, and in abidance by the export regulations of the country of origin, Iraq issued the certificate of final user.

The statement added: It is very well known to everyone that it is easy for people with evil intentions to link the ordinary use of any electronic or mechanical equipment with their military use.

It added: The material the British authorities claim are nuclear detonators are nothing but electrical devices used for several industrial, scientific, and engineering purposes.

The Iraqi Embassy statement went on to say: Iraq has the right to transfer technology to build and develop its society. This is what enrages Iraq's enemies, and makes them lie in wait for it to obstruct its upsurge. The aim of this instigation campaign hence becomes clear—namely, to prepare the political and media atmosphere for a new Israeli act of aggression against Iraq.

Press Cited on 'Poisonous' Anti-Iraq Campaign

JN3103134290 Baghdad INA in English 1035 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, Mar 31, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad scoffed the poisonous political and information campaign launched by Zionist and imperialist forces against Iraq. A daily editorial here today stressed that this drive instigated by Zionist and British circles following the execution of the Iranian born spy Bazoft who

carried British travel documents has completely failed in achieving any of its evil purposes and objectives. It stressed that open allegations aired by British authorities last Thursday against Iraq and were immediately propagated by Zionist and American quarters came within the frame of the suspicious slanderous drive unleashed by Zionist and British information mass media against Iraq with the object of threatening its security and paving the political and information way for an aggression against it. The paper stressed that those allegations, categorically rejected by Iraq, were in fact aimed at covering the failure sustained by the British government in its poisonous campaign against Iraq as concern the case of the spy Bazoft. The United States was also after diverting attention on the decision adopted by the U.S. Senate on considering al-Quds as a capital to the Zionist entity. A decision that represented a grave violation to the resolution of the Security Council and the UN General Assembly in this regard and an open challenge to the will and feelings of the Arab and Islamic nation. [sentence as received]

AL-THAWRAH further said that American circles insist on reiterating the British claims and intensify this campaign from its side to mask a decision adopted by the U.S. House of Representatives on allocating 400 million dollars to the Zionist entity to assist it in settling Soviet Jews in the occupied Arab territories. It pointed out that political deception employed by the United States was represented in shedding tears on the security and stability in the region which itself shoulders the main responsibility of the Soviet Jews emigration and settling them in the occupied Arab territory.

The Iraqi daily stressed that the United States was not keen on security and stability in the region as it claims but in fact was keen on ensuring the superiority of the Zionist entity on the Arabs militarily and technically. Those who talk about security and stability in the region must stop supporting the Zionist entity and encouraging it on carrying out aggression and expansion at the expense of the Arab nation and its historic legitimate rights.

AL-QADISIYAH daily strongly condemned the U.S. Senate decision on considering al-Quds a unified capital to the Zionist entity and considered the decision as a flagrant challenge to the international legitimacy and violation to the international resolutions on al-Quds. A daily commentary here today said that the American stand is an extension to previous stances adopted by the U.S. Administration for supporting the colonization project through open encouragement to the emigration of thousands of Soviet Jews to the Zionist entity. It pointed out that the United States previously allowed Soviet Jews to emigrate to its territory and that 90 percent of Soviet emigrants chose emigration to the United States and rejected emigration to the Zionist entity. The United States soon after the Soviet Union gave access to the emigration of Jews closed its doors before those desiring to travel to the United States, the daily said.

The daily said that the American attitude pools in serving the Zionist policy [as received] and not in defending the Jewish human rights saying that the Soviet Jews emigration was rather an operation of kidnapping them and forcing them to go to the place where they do not desire. AL-QADISIYAH called for adopting a unified effective Arab stand that preserves for the Arab nation its rights and interest and force its enemies to relinquish their aggressive policies vis-a-vis Arab rights.

AL-JUMHURIYAH daily stressed that Iraq would not submit to pressures and would proceed along the path it has drawn for achieving its national objectives. A daily editorial said that those who are trying to force Iraq to play another role and exhausting and taming it were disillusioned.

Referring to the hostile campaign launched by Britain and Zionist and imperialist quarters against Iraq, the daily said that it has become clear that objectives of this campaign were not expressing sorrow on a spy who received a just punishment but rather are after harming Iraq's resolve for attaining the technological and scientific growth.

The daily said that the Zionist-imperialist campaign had in fact started following Iraq's victory in the war and continued until today by employing various pretexts after exhausting previous ones. This campaign is carried out today by British hands after using Zionist and American and other masks previously. The daily referred to the British authorities recent illegal arrest of an Iraq Airways employee in London and said that whatever masks they use, Iraq would not be harmed and those who try to harm it would pay for that.

Cabinet Discusses Iraqi Missiles, Immigration

TA0104150290 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 1 Apr 90

[By political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Excerpts] The weekly Cabinet meeting today dealt mainly with police matters. [passage omitted] Security elements who reported to the Cabinet on last week's events addressed the deployment of the Iraqi surface-to-surface missiles, which can hit the center of Israel. Israel is following this issue closely, it was reported.

The continued Arab activity against aliyah also was reported. The United States is very active in trying to get the East European countries to permit Jewish immigrants to pass through their territory. Minister David Magen, coordinator for the Communications Ministry, reported on the activities tied to the setting up of VOA transmitters in the 'Arava and made it clear Israel is continuing to support efforts to advance this project. [passage omitted]

The Likud ministers, except for Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i, convened at Prime Minister Shamir's office after the Cabinet meeting. The general feeling among the Likud ministers was good, and the rumors Peres plans to present a government this week already were met with scorn. All efforts by the Alignment to find renegades would fail, Likud sources said. Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i, who was absent from the meeting, was the main issue on the agenda. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said if there are early elections the Likud would not change its present Knesset list, thereby safeguarding Moda'i's group five Knesset seats. The proposal was transmitted to Moda'i last week during his meeting with Shamir, and as far as is known, he rejected it.

Minister Moshe Qatzav seemed optimistic about talks with Moda'i. [passage omitted]

Minister Moshe Qatzav also voiced criticism at a more distant destination—Washington—following Secretary of State Baker's remarks calling for an early conclusion to the efforts to set up a government in Israel. Qatzav said: Only the people of Israel will determine which government rules.

Armed Jordanian 'Terrorist' Caught Near Jericho

TA0204093190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] This morning an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] contingent captured a Jordanian soldier who had infiltrated yesterday evening into Israeli territory. The soldier, armed with an M-16 rifle, crossed the border near Kibbutz Na'aran and was captured during a pursuit in the al-'Awja area, north of Jericho.

Our correspondents Karmela Menashe and Moti Amir report signs of the infiltration were discovered yesterday evening and led to a banana grove in Kibbutz Na'aran. The tracks led from there to the village of al-'Awja, where the terrorist was caught hiding inside the mosque.

The Central Command commander was briefed by the soldiers who participated in the chase.

Hungarian Airline Resumes Flights to Israel

TA0104092390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] The Hungarian airline has resumed its flights on the Moscow-Budapest-Israel route. This morning the first group of immigrants who flew Malev landed at Ben-Gurion Airport.

Another group of immigrants arrived in Budapest on a flight by the Soviet airline, Aeroflot.

In addition, an El Al plane landed this morning carrying immigrants who arrived from Budapest.

Shamir: 'Great Satisfaction' With Bush Remarks

TA3003120890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir has expressed great satisfaction with a statement by President Bush supporting the right of Soviet Jews to immigrate to Israel. The prime minister also praised the remarks made by the President expressing regret at the decision of the Hungarian airline, Malev, to halt charter flights for new immigrants. Prime Minister Shamir made the statement at a meeting in Jerusalem with visiting retired U.S. Army officers.

Coalition Update Shows 'Race Against Time'

TA0204081590 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Apr 90 pp 1, 10

[By political correspondents Sara Honig and Mikhal Yudelman]

[Text] Labour leader Shim'on Peres wants to be "king for at least a day." In a desperate race against time, sources said, he is seeking to form a minority government that would last for at least one Knesset session, so that he can enter the next elections campaign as head of the transitional government.

Peres has now reached the point of gambling everything on a move to present a government resting on a base no broader than the 60 MKs [Knesset members] now in his corner, high-ranking Labour sources said yesterday. But he must move quickly, because Thursday is the last day on which he can present a government. While Monday is the last day of the three weeks Peres was given to form a government it is also Pessah Eve. Thursday, therefore, is the last day on which the Knesset can be called into session before the three weeks are over.

Labour's negotiating team met last night for a progress briefing, and party leaders continued to express confidence in their ability to form a government within the

next few days. But no apparent progress was made in Labour's coalition efforts yesterday, and the 60-60 tie remained intact.

Sources said Peres intends to ask President Hayim Herzog for an extension of his 21-day mandate on Thursday. But he will have to persuade Herzog that his chances at putting a government together are good.

"Peres is in a cold sweat about that," one source said. "He is well aware that this is no ordinary situation in which the nominee for premier has a majority of MKs behind him. Because of the tie, the president may now switch the mandate to the Likud, and Peres would rather not take the risk. His primary objective, therefore, is to try even for a minority government."

This, the source explained, is the reason for the Labour announcement that its central committee would meet this week to approve the allocation of portfolios. The committee would have to meet either tomorrow or Wednesday to be on time for a Knesset session on Thursday, and the House would have to be summoned for a special session, as it is now in spring recess.

The announcement that the Labour Central Committee is to meet has raised eyebrows among Peres's allies on the left. We "have no ideas what this is all about," one Citizens Rights Movement MK said. "Negotiations have not really been conducted; there are no coalition guidelines or agreements. It is hard to see how Peres can contemplate presenting a government this week."

Sources in the Peres entourage, however, were confident that "a collaborator" from the "Likud bloc" is waiting in the wings. That collaborator, the sources told THE JERUSALEM POST, will not cross the Knesset floor. He will absent himself from the crucial vote, so that the minority government presented by Peres can survive its first test.

As long as the Knesset is in recess, sources close to Peres explained, the government cannot be toppled by a no-confidence vote. The envisioned Labour government will not include the Communists or the Arab lists, but they will give it tacit support on the first crucial vote.

Peres's chief problem, the sources told THE POST, is that Agudat Yisra'el is growing extremely uneasy, because no other religious party has given him its support and because the coalition he envisions would depend on Arab support. Peres recently met with Rabbi Pinhas Menahem Alter, head of Aguda's Central Committee. Aguda sources revealed yesterday that Peres told him that he has a minority, and named Minister Avner Sciaki of the National Religious Party [NRP] and Aharon Abu-Hatzera of the Likud as the defectors who would put him over the top.

The two would increase the religious and Jewish component of his coalition, Peres argued, and once he won his first vote, the NRP, Shas [Torah Observing Sephardim] and Degel Hatora would climb on the bandwagon.

Aguda sources say that Alter remained sceptical, especially following heated denials from Abu-Hatzera and Sciaki, who accused Labour of using their names in a deliberate disinformation campaign.

Though Aguda is still saying it remains loyal to Labour, insiders told THE POST that this holds true only for the remainder of Peres's 21 days. As he loses momentum, so Aguda's support wanes. Aguda, it is added, has little to lose now that it has won such handsome financial allocations in the national budget and is no longer as ill-disposed to the Likud.

If all fails, however, and Shamir gets the president's next nod, Peres plans to move immediately for early elections. He will mobilize the support of at least 61 MKs to deny Shamir a narrow government, THE POST has learned.

Labour's intensive contacts with the Liberals and Shas continued yesterday. But as of last night, the maverick Liberal faction had not revealed its hand, and after a two-hour consultation, Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i, the faction's leader, would not say whether the five would return to the Likud bloc or support Labour. He merely stressed that the faction was now independent.

Moda'i, Peres's great hope in recent days, continued to fray Labour's nerves. He did not show up at their scheduled meeting yesterday, but neither did he attend the Likud ministerial caucus.

Likud sources say Moda'i might be offered the defence portfolio if a narrow Likud coalition is formed. This would keep Moshe Arens at the Foreign Ministry, and Ari'el Sharon would be given the Treasury instead.

Shas, whose institutions met yesterday to discuss the coalition situation and the possibility of Rabbi Yitzhaq Peretz's return to the party, remained in the Likud bloc.

And Shamir yesterday repeated his idea that in the event of early elections, the Likud would field the identical list it ran in the 1988 campaign. Freezing the situation would guarantee safe slots to all Liberals, without specifically singling out any group.

'Source' Cited on Rocket Attacks Against Israel

JN0104143590 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1330 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] An authorized Jordanian source told AFP in Amman today Jordan has intensified its campaign against those who fire rockets from its territories against Israel, and that it has foiled a number of operations attributed to an extremist Islamic group called the Islamic Jihad Organization. The source said that in the past three months, Jordan foiled 10 attempts to fire rockets from its territories against Israel, and the arrest of those responsible has confirmed the Islamic Jihad was behind those attempts.

The source did not reveal the number of those arrested or the dates of the arrests. Informed sources, however, have talked about the arrest of at least two members of the Islamic Jihad in mid-January 1990, and three more in February and March.

The same source said some of those members succeeded in firing two Soviet-made 107-mm Katyusha rockets on 24 March from southern Jordan. One of the two rockets fell to the west of the Dead Sea, and the other landed somewhere on the west bank of the Jordan River. The source pointed out the perpetrators of this operation still are on the run, and that the Jordanian Army is combing the southern parts of Jordan to arrest them.

2 Katyushas Fired From Jordan 'Last Week'

JN3103123890 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] A group belonging to the Islamic Jihad [Organization] last week fired two Katyusha rockets from Jordan in the direction of the occupied territories. One of them landed on the west bank of the Dead Sea, while the second fell in the occupied territories. An informed Jordanian source told our radio.

The source added the Jordanian Army still is combing the areas from which the two rockets were fired. These are the heights south of al-Tafilah and the east bank of the Dead Sea. The source said the security quarters have developed a conviction that the side responsible for firing the two rockets is the Islamic Jihad, which recently has started to intensify its activity from the Jordanian territories.

In another development, an authoritative source stressed Jordan and Libya have decided to reopen their embassies in both capitals after a six-year estrangement. Jordan restored ties with Libya in September 1987 after severing them in 1984, when Libyan demonstrators set fire to the Jordanian Embassy in Tripoli. No diplomatic representation, however, has been exchanged since the restoration of official relations.

Brotherhood Calls For Striking at U.S. Interests

JN0104100690 Amman AL-RAYAH AL-ISLAMIYAH in Arabic 30 Mar 90 p 3

[Text] Amman, AL-RAYAH AL-ISLAMIYAH—The Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan has issued a statement on the disaster of the Soviet Jewish emigration, in which it called for abandoning the option of the peaceful solution, reembracing the military option, and striking at U.S. interests in the region.

The Muslim Brotherhood said in its statement it had warned the nation on the popular and official levels of the gravity of the Jewish emigration before and after the establishment of the Jewish state; these warnings, however, fell on deaf ears, especially on the official level in the region. Instead, the Muslim Brotherhood became an enemy because of its stand on the issue.

The statement summarized the most important dangers of this emigration on the Islamic and Arab nations in the following points:

—Those emigrants are scientifically qualified, which means they will provide the Jews with the necessary element for their existence and continuity. Those emigrants, moreover, have been infused with odious malice toward the Palestinian kinfolk.

—Those Jewish immigrants reside in settlements inside the occupied territories, and these settlements function as military and war fortifications.

—The presence of the immigrants and the building of these settlements mean the areas no longer will be able to accomodate its Palestinian residents and, consequently, those Palestinians will be deported from Palestine.

—The massive increase in the number of Jews means a plan for expansion at the expense of the neighboring countries, especially Jordan and Syria, will have to be devised.

In face of these dangers, the Muslim Brotherhood has asked the following measures be taken:

—Besieging the interests of the Soviet Union in the region until it yields to the wish of the people of the region and halts the Jewish emigration. We also should bear in mind the Soviet Union was the first to recognize the Jewish state.

—Striking at U.S. interests in the region and all countries that support the Jewish state on the land of Palestine through their military or economic aid, especially in light of our knowledge that the United States is the military ally of the Jewish state in Palestine. The United States also is the primary financier for the building of Jewish settlements in Palestine.

—Devising an effective plan for opposing and preventing Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union and the eastern countries.

—Supporting the intifadah on the financial, media, cultural, and material levels so it can build a dam in the face of the Jewish emigration.

—Abandoning the option of the peaceful solution, which has been embraced by the countries of the region since 1974.

—Returning seriously to the military solution option, which has been dropped since 1974.

—Mobilizing the entire nation—men and women—to transform them to an armed popular army that will turn every inch desecrated by the invaders into violent volcanoes to burn those invaders and begin the first step on the road to liberate the entire Palestinian soil.

—Disseminating the spirit of jihad and martyrdom among the sons of this nation and upholding the slogan raised by al-Azhar scholar Shaykh 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassaim, which is: "It is either victorious jihad or martyrdom".

Perez de Cuellar Praises 'Democratic March'

JN3103072190 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 31 March 90 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar was Friday winding up a private visit to Jordan during which he was received by His Majesty King Husayn.

Informed sources said the U.N. chief, who is due to begin a visit to Europe this week, was expected to leave late Friday or early Saturday.

In his meeting with the U.N. chief at al-'Aqabah Wednesday, King Husayn reviewed with him the latest developments on the international scene, the Jordan News Agency, Petra said.

The King paid tribute to the important role played by the U.N. and stressed the need for enhancing this role, given the present detente in international relations.

King Husayn said that such enhancement of the U.N. role was needed to achieve solutions to various world conflicts, Petra said.

Perez de Cuellar thanked King Husayn for the invitation extended to him to visit Jordan and praised the democratic march which Jordan is currently pursuing and noted the achievements Jordan has made, it said.

The audience was attended by Royal Court Chief al-Sharif Zayd Bin Shakir, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim, Jordan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations 'Abdallah Salah and the secretary general's aides.

Perez de Cuellar will visit France, Greece, Britain and Belgium in a two-week tour beginning this weekend, according to U.N. officials.

They said the secretary-general was to arrive in France over the weekend.

His exact itinerary was not disclosed for security reasons.

Departs 31 Mar

JN3103182290 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar left Amman this evening following a four-day private visit to Jordan, during which he met with His Majesty King Husayn and Crown Prince Hasan.

He was seen off at the airport by Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and 'Abdallah Salah, Jordan's permanent UN representative.

Saudi Education Minister Arrives With Message

JN3103175890 Amman Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Saudi Education Minister Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir arrived in Amman today on a brief visit to Jordan. He will deliver a message from the Saudi monarch, King Fahd, for His Majesty King Husayn.

The Saudi minister was received upon arrival by the political adviser of his majesty, Mr. 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, and the Saudi ambassador to Jordan.

Delivers Message, Departs

JN3103211890 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] His majesty the king today received a written message from King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia. The message was delivered to his majesty by the Saudi minister of education and acting minister of higher education, 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir, during an audience at al-Nadwah Palace. His majesty's political adviser, 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, and the Saudi ambassador in Amman attended.

The Saudi minister later left Amman. He was seen off by Mr. 'Abu-'Awdah and the Saudi ambassador.

Amnesty International Praises Jordan's Democracy

JN3103175490 Amman Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Amnesty International has praised Jordan's new democratic experience. In a report issued recently, the international human rights group also welcomed steps taken by the government to protect public freedoms. It said the government's steps have been reflected in the freezing of martial law, the freeing of political detainess, and the release of confiscated passports.

Amnesty International also welcomed the government's cancellation of the 1953 anti-communist law and its guarantee of citizens' right to work and travel.

During a visit to Jordan earlier this month, the secretary general of Amnesty International, Mr. Ian Martin, hailed Jordan's move towards restoring democracy.

Western Media Accused of Campaign Against Iraq

JN3103102190 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 31 Mar 90 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "Suspicious Media Campaign Against Iraq"]

[Text] In a campaign to mobilize world public opinion against fraternal Iraq to justify any measure against it by any party, Western media—known for their links with the Zionist movement—have blown out of proportion the story of the Iranian-born British spy Bazoft, portraying the affair as though a major catastrophe had befallen humanity. These media have given themselves the right to assume falsely the identity of top human rights defenders.

Now, even before the ink of the first rancorous campaign has dried, British and American media and political lobbies are fabricating new allegations against fraternal Iraq.

Drawing on our experience in this respect, we can say whenever anti-Arab political circles prepare for a measure, a campaign, or an act of aggression against us, they first begin with media campaigns, and these are then developed according to the situation and the desired goal.

We have noticed Western political circles, which are highly influenced by Zionism, are directing much of their fabrications against fraternal Iraq. This is because Iraq came out of the horrible war—during which Israel and the United States supported Iran—stronger and more powerful. It became ready to play a strategic role in protecting pan-Arab security, whether through raising the moral and psychological state of alert or by developing arms capable of protecting pan-Arab security and preventing all enemies—foremost of which is Israel—from contemplating a threat to this security. This now is possible thanks to the availability of effective and powerful retaliation tools, represented by al-Husayn missiles, developed by Iraqi Arab brains and introduced by the strong Iraqi leadership into the calculations of the Arab-Israeli and Arab-Iranian conflicts.

The Arab countries have the right to make available all means to protect their regional security and contribute to the maintenance of pan-Arab security. What entrenches this right and makes the nation rally around it is the fact our Arab nation has some of its territories occupied by a colonialist enemy that usurped these territories by force. This enemy, moreover, continues to ignore all peace overtures, and is engaged in preparing for other acts of aggression proceeding from a worn-out expansionist ideology making settlement and expansion two sides of the same coin in its political and security calculations.

We also have noticed the enemies of our nation are doing their best to block Arab progress and maintain an upper hand in this region so they can decide on whatever suits their interests without any Arab being able to promote his strength to counter them and stop the arrogance of aggressors.

But we have noticed, on the other hand, that the pan-Arab upsurge is too strong to be absorbed or contained by the enemies of the nation. We also have noticed the historic pan-Arab Iraqi and Palestinian performance, represented by the repulsion of Iranian aggression and the valiant Palestinian intifadah, has effectively changed the balance of power in the region, freeing it from the biased U.S. will that allies itself with the Zionist enemy. We know this turnaround will not be received with satisfaction or even silence, and this explains the current suspicious campaigns against Iraq—campaigns that may lead to a new act of aggression to block the growth of Arab military power. But we have no doubts whatsoever the aggression will backfire, bringing destruction and tragedies on its perpetrators.

Arabs Urged To Help Iraq Against 'Campaign'

JN0204081190 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 2 Apr 90 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "Israel Joins Campaign Against Iraq"]

[Text] In a manner reminiscent of the propaganda campaign that preceded the raid on the Iraqi nuclear reactor in 1981, Israel yesterday joined the western propaganda campaign against fraternal Iraq by announcing that at its weekly meeting, the caretaker government headed by Shamir reviewed the case of Iraq's military and technological capabilities.

No doubt, Israel's participation in this concentrated western campaign clearly reveals Israel's long premeditated intentions against fraternal Iraq, especially after it has emerged strong and triumphant from its long war with Iran, contrary to what Israel and and its backers had expected.

It is also obvious that what disturbs Israel and its western allies is Iraq's resumption of its effective pan-Arab role in the Arab arena by placing all its political resources in the service of the common Arab interests. This of course does not please the enemies of the Arabs. In fact, it arouses their old fears of the emergence of an Arab power that can awaken the Arab nation from the long state of spoliation it has been in.

So, Israel can barely hide its intentions to prepare the suitable political ground for a military strike against Iraq's defense capabilities. This means the Middle East once again would slip into a new war. But this time Iraq will not fail to find the means to reply directly to every mean aggressor.

While we see the political scene being set to commit some foolish act against Iraq's defense capabilities and military installations, we call upon the Arab states to immediately declare their full support for fraternal Iraq and to utilize all their diplomatic and material resources

to prevent the occurrence of such a mad adventure, which only would expose the interests of the aggressors and their allies in the region to unpredictable dangers in the future.

Editorial on Media Attacks Against Iraq, Syria

JN0204084090 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 2 Apr 90 First Edition p 1, 15

[Editorial: "With Baghdad and Damascus Against the Great Conspiracy"]

[Text] The threads of the international conspiracy against Syria started at Heathrow Airport, London, to isolate and weaken it and prepare for forcing it to kneel before the Zionist racist hegemony.

From Heathrow Airport started the strings of the international conspiracy against Iraq to isolate and weaken it in preparation to force it to bow down before the dictates of foreign wishes, foremost of which is the Zionist will, which wants to become the only one free to play around with the fate of the Middle East and the destinies of its people.

The western chorus accompanying the misleading operation in both the cases of Syria and Iraq is the same chorus that provides Israel with all the justifications for aggression and expansion at the expense of Arab presence—land and people.

When Turkey recently began to fill up the Ataturk Dam and cut off the Euphrates waters from Syria and Iraq, the two brothers in the fraternal countries rushed to defend their acquired rights, but they did not consider that making decisions on an individual basis would not lead to a sound stand.

Syria was greatly harmed both economically and politically by the pressures of the western world, which follows the orders of Washington, which in turn experiences the nightmare of the Zionist lobby in the American capital.

Iraq currently is being harmed while we all are watching and no one is deterring the harm, as though the weakest belief is the utmost our Arab world can achieve today.

We consume western products and use all the western industries, especially the most trivial of them, after we pay for them through the blood of the hugely diversified Arab homeland.

We say one thing and do something else, or the opposite, as though we are a nation suffering from "schizophrenia", or split personality.

When will the countries in our homeland realize every day that goes by cannot be retrieved?

When will the leaders of our countries realize the continuing splits and divisions are nothing but a plague on our nation?

We feel the pain of our brothers in Iraq, as we did for our brothers in Syria, while they are being subjected to these vicious attacks. We side, however, with Damascus and Baghdad in confronting this great conspiracy to subdue the Arabs and impose Zionist hegemony on the region.

Mahmud Rafsanjani Continues Efforts on Hostages

NC0104064690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Mahmud Rafsanjani, brother of Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, has been in West Beirut for over 10 days now on instructions of the Iranian president to find a settlement for the hostages issue. This is the second time he has made such a visit in one month.

Amal Leader Links Hostage Release to Concessions

JN3103181390 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] In Beirut, AL-NAHAR published an interview with the leader of the Islamic Amal Movement, Husayn Musawi, in which he stressed that the Western hostages in Lebanon will remain in detention unless the United States offers concessions. Musawi said his organization does not hold any of the 18 Western hostages, who are divided into small groups and dispersed by security elements who neither obey Hizballah nor Amal instructions. Al-Musawi considered the captors' demands to be legitimate, regardless of the conditions of the captives.

Hizballah's Al-Tufayli Views Security, Hostages

NC3103083690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General His Eminence Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli has revealed that Hizballah is not opposed to any security plan, including the greater Beirut plan. In an interview with REUTER yesterday, his eminence said: Everyone should be assured that Hizballah is most eager to see normal life restored. The moment when citizens can live without fear of guns or gunmen will be one of delight for Hizballah and one that Hizballah will not seek to hinder. Hizballah is enthusiastic about any action that gives the people a safe and peaceful life and banishes guns from their sight.

Shaykh al-Tufayli noted that Hizballah is not proposing the establishment of an Islamic republic in Lebanon. He said: We propose that the form of government in Lebanon be decided through a general referendum and that the opinion of the majority should prevail. It is true that we believe in Islam and the Koran, but this does not mean that we want to force our beliefs on others.

Commenting on the efforts to end the conflict between Hizballah and Amal, his eminence said: There is no progress in these efforts at the moment. There is a difference in perspective between us and Amal. We see a need to tackle our problems in Beirut, Iqlim al-Tuffah, the south, and al-Biqa'. Amal, however, believes that the problem is confined to Iqlim al-Tuffah and is acting from this narrow perspective. Amal does not want to discuss other areas with long-standing problems. We, on our part, want to bring everything to the table.

Asked about the foreign hostages in Lebanon, he said: Iran can use its influence in Lebanon to the benefit of some hostages. Iran, with its moral and ethical weight and with its cultural and spiritual presence in Lebanon, has influence that it can use to tackle some problems, such as the problem of the hostages. Iran also has rights, problems, and demands with regards to other countries. So, if someone wants something from Iran, he should pay the price.

His eminence noted that everyone knows that the hostages are held by security groups that have no organizational links with Hizballah and are not working under its command.

Al-Tufayli said: Some foreign parties have asked us to mediate on the hostages issue. We have not so far been interested in that, but things may change.

His eminence Shaykh al-Tufayli concluded by voicing the hope that the hostage issue will be over and that all people who were abucted, captured, or wronged will return to their homes, whether these people are Lebanese, or European, or Americans; Muslims or not Muslims.

Further on Al-Tufayli Remarks

NC3003163890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli has said: Some foreign parties have asked that we play a role and mediate in the hostage issue, but so far we feel we have no interest in this. He added: However, our convictions may change in the future. They know that the hostages are in the hands of organizations with no organizational link to Hizballah.

In a statement to REUTER, al-Tufayli noted that Iran can use its moral influence in Lebanon to deal with problems like the hostage problem. Iran, he said, has rights to, problems with, and makes demands of other countries. He who wants something from Iran has to pay a price, he concluded.

Two Polish Citizens Wounded in West Beirut

NC3103064690 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] A security source has reported that two Polish citizens were shot, but only wounded, near the Bristol Hotel in al-Hamra' district of West Beirut at about 2230 yesterday. The two were about to get into their Opel car which carries a diplomatic plate number 22/152.

Arab Resistance Claims Attack

NC3103091590 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] An organization calling itself the Revolutionary Action Organization of the Arab Resistance Front

[Munazzamat al-'Amal al-Thawri Lijabhat al-Muqawamah al-'Arabiyah] has announced that the martyr Sulayman al-Halabi's unit attempted to assassinate the commercial attache in the Polish Embassy and his wife in al-Hamra' area yesterday.

AL-SAFIR has received a handwritten statement in Arabic from the organization to this effect.

Junblatt on Jewish Immigration, Robinson Killing

NC0204092590 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt received a number of visitors in al-Mukhatarah yesterday to discuss all aspects of current developments. Among those Junblatt received were Defense Minister Albert Mansur and Sulayman Franjiyah. [passage ommitted]

After meeting Defense Minister Mansur, Junblatt said: We reviewed various economic and political problems facing the government. He added: I believe the primary concern is to find ways to reduce expenditure to prevent an economic disaster. He noted: We support Minister Mansur's efforts to extricate the army from this impasse and place it on the right track so that it can assume the required tasks, particularly in southern Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Regarding certain incidents in West Beirut, Junblatt said: These incidents are regrettable and shameful. If certain people believe they can halt Jewish immigration or change history by firing at certain East European diplomats, they are either crazy or part of a conspiracy, he said. He added: Jewish immigration should be addressed by official and serious Arab action. Let a high-level Arab delegation depart for Moscow to discuss this issue with Soviet officials. Let the Arab world do its duty toward the Soviet people who stood by us at various stages in confronting Israel. Let the Arabs invest their funds in the USSR instead of investing them in Western or American banks. Let Arab officials hold a dialogue with Soviet officials on Jewish immigration and its repercussions in the interests of both the Arabs and the Soviets.

Regarding the issue of Robinson, Junblatt said: I wish I did not have to mention this incident. However, I should say something. Robinson may have been a spy, a radical Christian missionary, crazy, or one of the pioneers seeking to establish colonies or settlements in southern Lebanon. However, I cannot accept the way in which he was assassinated.

'Awn Says U.S. Reports Now 'More Objective'

NC0104083490 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Former Army Commander Michel 'Awn has said that U.S. reports about the Lebanese situation are more objective than before. He hoped that this objectivity and conciliatory approach will produce good results in the future, and he maintained that the moment for change has come.

'Awn said that he is not offering to negotiate with the al-Ta'if legitimacy but that he is struggling for national objectives more sublime than the struggle for power. He added that the Lebanese Forces elements are not fighting for anything. If they win, they surrender, and if they fail, they surrender. He said that they are part of a big game. The resources, in the form of modern technological and [word indistinct] equipment and sophisticated weapons which have become available to the Lebanese Forces, are beyond what they can absorb. This confirms the scope of foreign intervention.

'Awn said that the situation is being manipulated by international forces. There are forces which by tactical means are trying to cause divisions among local positions to facilitate the process of partition. He added that he wants to regain what is left, and he accused others of attempting to divide what is left. He described the war in the eastern area as a [word indistinct] war. He added that this battle is in the last heated stage.

He praised the Vatican's position, which can influence many positions and is capable of effecting change. Referring to a contradiction between the Vatican and Bkirki [the seat of the Lebanese Maronite patriarchate] positions, he said that the church must be the judge when good and evil cannot be equated.

Islamic Jihad Claims Firing at Israeli Settlement

NC0204085790 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] The Islamic Jihad-Bayt al-Maqdis has issued a statement on the incident in which two rockets were fired at the occupied territory from Jordanian territory last Thursday. The statement stressed that the Islamic intifadah in occupied Palestine is facing difficult circumstances. Certain parties want to tame the intifadah to serve the advocates of settlement plans, who have abandoned the paths of struggle and jihad, the only two paths that will remove the cancerous growth, Israel. They have sold out the blood of martyrs at the cheapest of prices.

The statement said: At a time when the Arab regimes are trying hard to peddle Baker's damned plan and to build impregnable walls to prevent any jihad operation on any border with the Israeli enemy to demonstrate their loyal agentry and at this time of Soviet emigration to the occupied territory, our mujahidin acted to emphasize their resolve and determination to keep up the struggle against the Jews.

The martyr Sami al-Shaykh Khalil group and the martyr Muhammad Sa'id al-Jamal group fired rockets at the hotel area on the western coast of the Dead Sea and bombarded the (?Mit Hatikar) settlement south of the Dead Sea at 2000 on Thursday, 29 March. Both groups returned safely to base.

In conclusion, the statement said: We in the Islamic Jihad Movement-Bayt al-Maqdis claim responsibility and emphasize that we bless our struggle according to God's order: In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate: To those against whom war is made, permission is given (to fight), because they are wronged; and verily, God is most powerful for their aid. [Koranic verse]

Speaker Al-Husayni Comments on Trip to Paris

NC0104201690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Upon his return to West Beirut from Paris at 1900 this evening, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni said that his consultations with the deputies residing in Paris focused on the role of parliament during the present phase, especially following the commencement of the ordinary session of the Chamber of Deputies.

Speaker al-Husayni said that the deputies will return from the French capital. He said that the deputies have always responded to every call to carry out their national duty, and will continue to do so, especially in the present fateful circumstances.

On the results of his meeting with Arab committee envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi in Paris, the speaker said that coordinated contacts are continuing with the Arab committee in order to achieve the basic goal of solving the Lebanese crisis. [passage omitted]

Pro-Syrian Groups Reportedly Assisting 'Awn

NC0104115790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] AFP has reported that an official of an organization, who asked not to be identified, said that three groups allied with Syria are providing General Michel 'Awn with assistance, especially fuel, provisions, and—if necessary—ammunition.

These groups are: The militia loyal to the former Lebanese Forces Commander Elie Hubayqah, who was ousted by Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja'; the al-Maradah militia, led by Sulayman Tony Franjiyah; and the Syrian Social Nationalist Party.

AFP notes that Gen. 'Awn has not made verbal attacks on Syria for some time now. 'Awn made no mention of Syria on the first anniversary of his declaring the war of liberation on 14 February 1989 against the Syrian occupiers.

'Awn Confirms Dispatch of Message to Arab Leaders

NC3003202990 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Excerpt] In a frank and clear acknowledgement of what the Kuwaiti paper AL-QABAS revealed today, General 'Awn confirmed that he has sent messages to the leaders of the Arab tripartite committee countries. He said: This is not the first time I have sent messages. I have sent four messages, the last one addressed to the Arab League secretary general. I asked him to distribute it to the Arab countries' leaders.

Regarding the content of the messages, Gen 'Awn said: The message has political contents which I will not reveal because this is not usually done before the person concerned has read it and also before some time has passed. [passage omitted]

'Text' of 'Awn's Letter to Arab Committee

JN3103195490 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 29 Mar p 3

["Full, official text" of Michel 'Awn's letter to Arab countries represented on the three-member committee and to other Arab states—date not given]

[Text] You must be aware that the changes that have swept the region and the world at large over the past few months, and other potential developments, call for the kind of Arab solidarity that will reinforce our capacity to face up to this situation and to stand up to threats and emergencies. The cohesion we are seeking requires that all gaps in Arab ranks be closed, that the hemorrhage of blood be halted and the waste of resources stopped, particularly in the wounded Lebanese arena.

It is accepted with full conviction that the motives, aims, and hopes incorporated in the al-Ta'if agreement were the product of a sincere Arab will and a genuine desire to rid Lebanon of the real ills from which it has suffered over the past 15 years. And yet, the end result of your strenuous and appreciated efforts, and the efforts of their majesties, highnesses and excellencies of the Arab brothers, has fallen short of expectations. Nor has it been commensurate with the efforts of your esteemed committee and its undoubted will to save the Lebanese people. It is extremely regrettable that the split has deepened, disunity has worsened, security has deteriorated, and bloodshed has increased. Lebanon is now threatened along with its people and territorial integrity. This threat carries grave risks and ramifications that transcend the Lebanese arena.

Convinced that the Arab will to help Lebanon is as strong as ever, I would like to emphasize that I will explore every avenue of dialogue in the interest of justice and peace for all, through a solution that meets Lebanon's best interests and the legitimate interests of all the parties concerned so as to ensure dignity, justice, and equality. In the midst of an unmistakable global shift toward openness and dialogue, it is no longer acceptable that hands held out for conciliation and understanding should be spurned.

Proceeding from this conviction, I repeat that my government is fully prepared to be responsive to your esteemed committee's endeavor to attain understanding

among the Lebanese and concerned parties in a positive spirit and with a national and pan-Arab sense of responsibility. In this context, I leave it to your good offices, wisdom, and eagerness to help our people choose the framework you deem fit (the al-Ta'if agreement or another framework) to promote a dialogue to produce comprehensive, just, and workable results, especially since it has been shown that any solution that disregards the majority is doomed. True and solid peace is the peace of the brave—one that respects the will of the people and the dignity of the Army.

The Lebanese people, once more, look to you and are relying on succor from their brethren with whom they share their destiny and aspirations. I am certain that you will give the Lebanese people the attention and support they need to fulfill their yearnings for peace, dignity, and justice so they may resume their Arab and humanitarian mission.

'Dozens' Reportedly Desert 'Awn's Forces

NC0204085690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] The security situation in the eastern area has been noticeably tense over the last few hours until the morning. In the meantime, there have been noticeable desertions from 'Awn army units. According to security reports, many soldiers and officers have left their units, particularly since the al-Qulay'at battle. According to these reports, the deserters number in the dozens, and indications are that the number will increase. A number of soldiers and officers deserted their military posts and in civilian dress joined areas outside 'Awn's control. Some of these deserters had identity cards belonging to others. More soldiers and officers are still hiding in areas under 'Awn's control. 'Awn's organs detained several military men while they were trying to desert.

Some deserting soldiers said that the military situation within 'Awn's units is characterized by increasing confusion. Certain elements began to voice their concern over the significance and goal of the fighting. Officers and soldiers are beginning to grumble within units known for their loyalty to 'Awn, particularly since these units have suffered the largest numbers of losses. Certain soldiers from these units preferred to desert and join Army units 'Awn does not control. They declared that they are not ready to die for nothing, as many of their comrades did. At the same time, they stressed that their desertion does not mean that they are abandoning the military establishment or the goals for which they joined the Army.

Casualty Tolls Updated in Eastern Area Fighting

NC0204073690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] The eastern area war has begun its third month under conditions of escalation and military mobilization and preparations. The last two days' war yielded 63 dead and 130 injured. Western diplomatic sources expect the conflict to be resolved during April.

Sources close to 'Awn quote his comments on the task of the mediation committee as the following: We are at the stage of preparing the burial ceremony. The committee has failed, and the Lebanese Forces are mobilizing their forces to wage a new battle. There is no reason for mediation or anything else because all are waiting for the date of the forthcoming round.

In its last statistics on the victims since the war broke out on 31 January, REUTER says that more than 888 have been killed and more than 2,865 others wounded. It also says that entire residential, industrial, and commercial areas have been destroyed.

AP reports that the battles which took place in al-Qulay'at on Friday and Saturday left 63 dead and 130 injured.

The artillery duels were resumed last night on al-Qulay'at front and the al-Dubayyab-Yasu' al-Malik-Nahr al-Kalb front. The rounds reached the areas of al-Qulay'at, Darayya, Antilyas, al-Zalqa, al- Tahwitah, Zuq Musbih, the Kasrawan coast, al-Ashrafiyah, Jall al-Dib, Ju'aytah, Nahr al-Kalb, al-Dawrah, and al-Barjawi. Fires broke out in fuel depots in Jall al-Dib around 2100 last night. The intensity of the clashes abated as of 2230 after a cease-fire agreement was reached at 2215.

Awn's Gunmen Bombard Kasrawan Area 1 Apr

NC0104191590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1901 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] We have just received the following report from the newsdesk:

After closing the Nahr al-Kalb crossing point, the 'Awn gunmen are now bombarding the coastal area of Kasrawan, using mortars, rockets, and medium-caliber weapons.

Infiltration Attempt in Al-Qulay'at 'Foiled'

NC0104082290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Guarded calm, occasionally marred by bursts of automatic weapons' fire, prevails on all the newly created fronts in Beirut and Kasrawan.

The 'Awn forces directed automatic fire and 120-mm and mortar shells at residential neighborhoods and Lebanese Forces positions in the al-Ashrafiyah area from 0130 to 0230 today. B-7 shells also fell in the al-Jasir al-Wati area at about 0115 today. Artillery of the 'Awn forces shelled the Ju'aytah area in Kasrawan at about 2200 yesterday.

A
banese Forces source has stated that an attempt was
tie last night to infiltrate the Lebanese Forces posi-
by in al-Qulay'at. The infiltration attempt was foiled
ar e Lebanese Forces units, who inflicted casualties
ng the infiltrators.

C
e-fire Declared; Casualties Reported

N
103160990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
[E GMT 31 Mar 90 txt
in erpts] A cease-fire was declared at 1300 following
ar sive consultations by the joint military committee
th the mediation committee members, who resumed
wo political contacts today. However, the cease-fire
not adhered to until 1530.

H
is the security report for this afternoon:

A
ce 415, 'Awn's gunmen in the Rahmah commercial
he r, al-Bitu building, and the Greek refrigerated ware-
be e fired RPG's at the Lebanese Forces positions
G een al-Nab'ah and the al-Shaluhi center, as far as
rie al-Khabbaz.

A
gu 420, clashes involving tanks, RPG's, and machine
ca took place on the Galerie al-Ittihad line. Sinn al-Fil
fi under sniper fire in which a Lebanese Forces
er was martyred.

A
sn 530, the Lebanese Forces in Sinn al-Fil came under
K r fire, and 10 mortars were fired at the Galerie
bbaz line.

A
Ording to security reports, the clashes on the al-
shy'at and Darayya lines abated. But some limited
ing continued. [passage omitted]

O
a citizen was killed and two others were injured when
well was fired at the al-Mu'amalatayn area. A child
alkilled and a citizen injured during today's shelling of
inshrafiyah. Several fires also broke out, caused by
ndiary bombs.

L
anese Forces 'Destroy' 'Awn Reinforcements

1103114290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
5 GMT 31 Mar 90

[S
Mtement by Lebanese Forces military source on 31
rch]

[T
yxt] Despite their repeated defeats on al-Qulay'at front
perday, 'Awn's gunmen tried to advance toward our
rations this morning. The Lebanese Forces units
ulsed them, killing and wounding several of them.

T
ns morning 'Awn gunmen tried to bring reinforce-
ants from the 81st Battalion and the special troops
Fig the Bikfayya-al-Qulay'at road. The Lebanese
nces shock troops confronted them and destroyed a
pitary convoy of nine vehicles and its personnel com-
ely.

'Awn, LF Media Cited on 'Fierce' Clashes

NC3103110390 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Fierce clashes are taking place on the combat fronts in East Beirut and Kasrawan between 'Awn army troops and Ja'ja' forces. 'Awn media have reported that the al-Yarzah army positions on the Primo-al-Tibbiyah line are coming under artillery fire from Lebanese Forces positions in al-Ashrafiyah. The media added that the northern al-Matn coast up to al-Dubayyah is being shelled, and that the areas of Bayt Miri, Brummanah, and the central al-Matn villages continue to be the target of random shell fire. They also noted that clashes are taking place on the al-Qulay'at-Darayya front, and said that the al-Yarzah army is replying to the attacks with accurate, concentrated artillery fire.

Lebanese Forces media, on the other hand, reported that the 'Awn army is shelling villages in the upper, central, and coastal areas of Kasrawan with heavy-caliber artillery. They noted that al-Ashrafiyah, al-Karantinah, and the Beirut port areas are also being shelled.

REUTER has reported that the casualty toll in the East Beirut war has risen to more than 860 dead and more than 2,700 wounded. The agency noted that more than 40 people were killed in yesterday's fighting. AFP reported that yesterday's fighting left at least 46 people dead and 100 others wounded. Huge fires also broke out in buildings and institutions.

Radio Cited on 30, 31 Mar Fighting

NC3103065390 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] General 'Awn continued his desperate attempts yesterday to score any military victory that would consolidate his position as a political negotiator. The last of these attempts was the vile attack which his units initiated on the al-Qulay'at-Darayya front. Gen. 'Awn massed all his troops in a bid to change the military positions and equations.

However, the Lebanese Forces were as always lying in wait for his scheme and repulsed the attackers with extreme heroism, inflicting grave losses on their ranks. The Lebanese Forces are currently trying to beef up their positions in the al-Qulay'at area.

Meanwhile, intermittent fighting involving light- and medium-caliber weapons is currently raging along the al-Qulay'at-Darayya combat lines.

RFL Updates Military Situation 30 Mar

NC3003162890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Excerpts] A military source in the Lebanese Forces has made the following statement: Forty-eight days after his first attack on al-Qulay'at and his second attack the following day and within 48 hours after the Bkirki

meeting, General 'Awn launched his third attack on al-Qulay'at. 'Awn initiated this third attack at dawn today with a destructive artillery bombardment at 0530. This was followed by the following units' attempts to advance on the eastern al-Qulay'at combat line: a company from the strike force, a company from the combatant force, a commando company, and the Fifth Brigade's 51st and 53d Battalions. Two and a half hours after the attack, the Lebanese Forces' units managed to check it, inflicting grave human and material losses on the attackers and forcing them to retreat. Consequently, the Lebanese Forces' units pursued the attackers and managed to achieve some progress on the ground to consolidate their positions. [passage omitted]

In another development shortly after 1600 today, a military source in the Lebanese Forces made the following statement: After this morning's attack failed, 'Awn's group repeated their attack on the eastern al-Qulay'at axis after mustering and reorganizing the forces which carried out the morning's attack. They coupled their attack with a violent artillery bombardment, causing more damage to the town. This afternoon's attack was foiled, and the Lebanese Forces' units struck and compelled the attackers to retreat. The Lebanese Forces consolidated the basic positions, which they captured.

In a vindictive retaliation, 'Awn's artillery carried out a destructive and hysterical bombardment of al-Qulay'at and all towns and villages in the Kasrawan area. The shelling is still in progress.

Some armored personnel carriers were seen fleeing toward Bikfayya while disorder and confusion prevail among the ranks of 'Awn's group. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, despite persistent appeals for a cease-fire and the agreement on a cease-fire at 1245, which 'Awn's group violated, the situation remains explosive on the Kasrawan axes. Shells of various calibers are falling randomly on peaceful villages and towns in central Kasrawan and its ridges. Shells are falling intermittently on the Kasrawan coast.

In Beirut, central al-Ashrafiyah and its fringes have been coming under almost continuous random and violent bombardment from the 'Awn groups' positions, causing heavy casualties and a large number of fires.

25 Killed, 35 Injured in 30 Mar Fighting

NC3003202090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Excerpts] The shelling and sniper attacks on the Lebanese Forces positions and the residential areas in Beirut and Kasrawan have abated after a long day of frenzied shelling. The day began with an attack this morning by the 'Awn group in an attempt to advance on the Lebanese Forces positions in al-Qulay'at. [passage omitted]

REUTER reported that more than 25 people were killed and more than 35 injured in the eastern areas today.

Al-Huss Comments on Deterioration in Eastern Area

NC3103131590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Responding to questions regarding the current deterioration in the eastern area, Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss said: This situation will end when the former army commander abandons his intrasigence and defiance of logic, law and legitimacy and gives up the position he has usurped. This situation will end when the militias return to legitimacy and abandon any partitionist idea even under the slogan of federalism and yield their usurped authority to legitimacy.

He added: We are hoping for the restoration of [words indistinct] and moderation in the eastern area so it will assume its natural role at the expense of the two combatant parties in favor of Lebanon's unity, legitimacy, and democracy. Hence, our utmost interest in Bkirki's [the seat of the Maronite patriarchate] initiative.

Regarding the role of legitimacy, Prime Minister al-Huss said: Legitimacy is profoundly bereaved by the killing and destruction in the eastern area. We feel that we are responsible for those people who face death daily. There is nothing that we can do to end this situation. Our resources do not permit us to intervene directly to decide the situation in favor of the people, legitimacy, and unity nor the present [word indistinct] international situation permit such intervention without causing further complications that are not conducive to the desired quick salvation.

Further on Ja'ja' Response to Patriarch's Appeal

NC3003153090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Both 'Awn and Ja'ja' have responded positively to Patriarch Sfayr's appeal in which he called for a cease-fire and threatened to excommunicate the warriors. However, fighting continued, as both parties' media acknowledged.

Ja'ja' responded to the appeal by saying: Your beatitude, the patriarch, your appeal is that of a pious father who cannot remain silent about the appalling catastrophe that beset his community because of the destructive war. You are aware of our stand on this war and on the proposed solutions. We have supported and still support your efforts as well as those of all the sincere personalities, and we backed all initiatives that tried to reach a comprehensive solution to the tragedy. Our position during the Bkirki meeting yesterday is the best witness to this fact. However, fire cannot be stopped unilaterally. Two must will this, and this has not yet occurred. Everyone has come to realize who spoke about upsetting the equations a few days ago, who announced the massing of thousands of troops and scores of guns on the

Kasrawan front to carry out his pledges, who boycotted the Bkirki meeting and shelled Bkirki only hours before the meeting took place, who attempted to defame Bkirki's role with outspoken statements and stands, who is continually refusing the political solutions, and who is refusing to withdraw the combatants.

Everyone knows the aggressor's identity, Ja'ja' added. It is time he is called by name; perhaps this would the the best way to stop the fighting. As for us, we announce our absolute adherence to the cease-fire. We have been, still are, and will continue to be defending ourselves.

2 Injured in Amal-Hizballah Fighting 31 Mar

NC3103081290 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] An extreme state of tension prevails in the southern suburb in the wake of the clashes which broke out between Amal Movement and Hizballah fighters at dawn today. The two sides are currently trading machine gun fire. Media sources in West Beirut said that the clashes which erupted on the airport road, Harat Hurayk, and al-Ghubayri shortly after 0300 left two people injured and caused material damage.

DPRK Official Yi Chong-ok Meets Al-Asad

JN3003144290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1000 today Yi Chong-ok, DPRK vice president and member of the Korean Workers Party Political Bureau, and his delegation. Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and the DPRK ambassador in Damascus also attended.

Yi Chong-ok delivered to the president a written message from DPRK President Kim Il-song. He also conveyed to the president greetings from President Kim Il-song and his son, Kim Chong-il. The president thanked him for the greetings and asked him to convey his greetings and best wishes to President Kim Il-song and to the DPRK's friendly people. Yi Chong-ok also conveyed to the president an invitation from President Kim Il-song to visit the DPRK. The president accepted the invitation and promised to take it up.

Conversation during the meeting centered on bilateral relations and the situation and developments in the Middle East, the Far East, and the world.

Yi Chong-ok expressed admiration for Syria's achievements and satisfaction with his talks with party and government officials in Syria and their results.

Departs 1 April

JN0104081790 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Damascus—Yi Chong-ok, DPRK vice president and member of the Korean Workers Party Political Bureau, and the delegation accompanying him left Damascus late last night following a four-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. The DPRK official was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, the DPRK ambassador in Damascus, and embassy staff.

Indian Official Delivers Message to Al-Shar'

JN3103153890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] This afternoon, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Mr. Muchkund Dubey, secretary general of the Indian Foreign Ministry. Assistant Foreign Minister Dia'ullah al-Fattal, and Mr. 'Abd-al-Wadud Atasi, head of the Asia desk, and the Indian ambassador attended.

Al-Shar' received from him a letter from Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad inviting him to visit India. They discussed issues of mutual interest.

Meets With Al-Asad

JN0104161990 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Damascus—President Ha[fiz] 1100 today Mr. Muchkund Dub[ey], the Indian Foreign Ministry. Assi[stant] Diya'ullah al-Fattal and Rame[sh] India's ambassador in Damascus [attended].

Mr. Dubey conveyed to the presi[dent] Indian prime minister and renew[ed] India.

Conversation during the meeting [centered] between the two countries and [the joint] strengthen them, the situation in [the Middle East and] Asia, as well as international de[velopments] impact of the Third World. Mr. [Dubey] faction with the fruitful and us[eful] Damascus.

Syria Ready for 'Unity With A[ny] Arab Country'

JN2903103190 Damascus SANA [in] Arabic 0824 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Damascus, 29 Mar (SANA)—[In] entitled "The Tobruk Meeting an[d the] ties," the newspaper AL-BA'TH s[ays] ward off the danger and protect th[e] future is the path of unity, and th[e] path of freedom and power.

The paper adds that Syria is ready [to go] unity with any Arab country to th[e] and to the level that is permitted [by] and circumstances.

AL-BA'TH says: Arab and interna[tional] Tobruk meeting has scared the [enemies] nation about the opportunities now [open] leaders for action on the path of [unity] action and coordination in face of [the] tional changes, as well as on the [path] resources for the battle that is no[w] lenging and provoking every Ara[b] vidual, the battle entailed by the in[vading] gration to Palestine.

The paper asserts: Unity is the most [potent] weapon in the hands of the Arabs. A[s] in Libya, unity is our destiny. Unit[y] large international communities is[in today's] sity if the Arabs want to save thems[elves] extinction.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Speaks to Sar-e Pol Elders

LD3103201390 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Speech by President Najibullah to elders and representatives of Sar-e Pol Province at presidency headquarters in Kabul on 31 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]

Dear elders and representatives, first of all please accept my apology that I was unable to see you on Wednesday [28 March]. An urgent visit came up. As you might have heard through mass media, I went to Herat. There was a great occasion, because on one hand a party plenum was going to be held and on the other hand a huge group of our compatriot brothers were interested in joining the national reconciliation policy. You may have seen them on television. I went to welcome them and I could not meet you then. Please accept my apologies from the bottom of my heart for that reason. I should tell you only in one word [words indistinct] that it is a pleasure the spirit of the people has fundamentally changed since that incident [coup]. You might have noticed it too. Since the Sowr issue [April revolution], the reconciliation declaration, the Soviet troop withdrawal, the year of the nation's independence defense, its independent territorial integrity, nothing has been welcomed, appreciated, supported, and backed by the people of Afghanistan as much as the foiling of this incident and of the coup plotters' intentions. This is the manifestation of the fact that of course there is no doubt that during the 11 or 12 years, we, the people of Afghanistan have suffered considerable pains, suffering, sorrow and many others; and losses of life and financial damage which has been inflicted on the national economy of the country. Despite all this damage—when we look—we see the outcome. The outcome is the knowledge of the people of Afghanistan and especially their political knowledge that has gone up to the level that one can say that now our nation is alive and that one should be proud of his nation. The people can now judge betwen good and bad. There was a mischief in which our benefit was embodied based on the will of Almighty God. At this moment there are endless conflicts in the camps of the opposition forces. A year ago when a Shura (Council) was elected or appointed in Pakistan and created the interim and transitional government, I said here in such a jirgah in this room before my Nangahar compatriots that Sibghatullah Mojadeddi [president of opposition interim government] is only being used as an instrument. The main cog in Pakistan is Gulbuddin. He has sold himself to Pakistan's military intelligence and has been changed as an agent and spy element for Pakistan. Pakistani generals count on him. I said [last year] that sooner or later it will be clear and Sibghatullah Mojadeddi will realize that Pakistan is not relying on him. They thought Pakistan is an Islamic country and they have taken steps toward a so-called Islamic Jihad. It has given us shelter and supports us from the military, political, and moral viewpoints. Therefore, Pakistan is interested to see an independent Islamic government tomorrow in Afghanistan.

This incident has posed a question for them. Now I again ask them if a year ago I asked them whether they really wanted an Islamic independent government here—to recognize Afghanistan's independence, territorial integrity and its independent identity. [sentence as heard] They want a government belonging to their agents, in fact [they want Afghanistan] to be the fifth province of Pakistan. Now they know that they did not want an independent Islamic government except in the person of Gulbuddin, with whom that self-selling traitor element [Shahnawaz Tanay] also joined. They, in fact, wanted a puppet government—a puppet government. This is a fact, despite that we have discussed it from a political point of view. But as a proverb put it: "How good it is for the touchstone to intervene so that those who have flaws are made ashamed." Another main question of which I am really proud is that we have proposed a policy of peace, reconciliation, accord and national unity. However, there were a number of people who created obstacles in the way of this policy not only from abroad, but from inside. Luckily—it is a matter of pleasure and one should utter the praise of God—those obstacles and those difficulties which existed in the way of the implementation of that policy have been alleviated. Even I wanted, taking this opportunity, to loudly call on my compatriots who have left the country or who have gone into mountains and tell them that those people who forced you into the mountains or who forced you to live in exile such as Sarwary and others are now themselves either in the mountains or live in exile or have been caught by the claws of the laws. So, there is no more a reason for you to remain in the mountains. Come out of the mountains. [applause]

I have given you small examples. Look at the philosophy of God. I had many a time said that God orders in the holy Koran: I give dignity if I wish so and I humiliate if I wish so, good is in His hand, God is capable of every thing. [Koranic verse] Dignity and humiliation come from God. Let us judge. I call on them to hold talks in Qaaba. They did not sit with me. Why? They said we are the supporters of the Soviet Union. But they themselves sat with the Soviets there. O.K., a proposal was presented. Let us form a coalition government here, hold elections, remove guns and artillery and airplanes. There is a political parties law; you can come and conduct a political campaign as an opposition group in a democratic way. If the people of Afghanistan backed you we would respect the view and opinion of the people. They said: We are not going along with you. If there was a good Muslim in the government of the Republic of Afghanistan we will sit with him; a good Muslim, but with the others we will not sit. Look at the liar—if one is not honest in his policy—how God betrays them, and reveal their faces not only for the people of Afghanistan but also for the people of the world. Thereby, I tell you, as (Mr.

Saidi) said, that I do not know, but it seems the end of the pain and wretchedness of the Afghan nation is near.

I was going toward Herat and I saw the mountains full of snow. No year was like this. I went to Mazar-e Sharif. They hoist the sacred banner there. First, the sign of good luck is that if the banner is hoisted very fast and simple and fits in its base [a long piece of wood decorated with colored material is raised on first day of new year which is brought from indoor to be hoisted on a prepared base; It remains there for 40 days] That means the new year will be a good and fruitful year. This is exactly what happened. Believe me, when the sacred banner was hoisted, from the very top where they fasten a number of scarves, a scarf fell down before my eyes in front of me. I took it and put it in my pocket [applause] [the material is considered sacred]

The main question is that the widows' pain, sorrow, and suffering will finally reach somewhere. There is no doubt that almighty God sent His worshippers on earth as His caliphs and has sent them to be tested. There is a correct path and there is also a satanic path. God punishes His good worshippers on earth to study resistance, patience, and everything. However, God is kind, merciful, great, and I think a light from His kindness, blessing, and greatness will fall on the nation of Afghans, on the long suffered people of Afghanistan. We hope to see peace under this blue and beautiful sky of our society very soon, God willing, and our people become tranquil. [applause]

Believe me, when peace is established in Afghanistan, we will ask each one of them who are very ambitious, who likes power and who like posts. I told Shahnawaz not to cause people pain. If you want to take my post, I can give it to you and we will tell the people of Afghanistan to choose. Tens, hundreds, and thousands of human beings are killed every day. With such a cost do you want this position and this post.

They [the opposition] consider themselves Muslims. I read a verse for them that states both honors and humiliation come from God. They said either ask the United States or ask the Soviets to tell Najibullah to leave power so that we can take it. If you really demand such a thing from them then why as recently as yesterday were you accusing another group that they are brought to power by the Soviets [referring to the Kabul government]. Therefore, I should tell you sincerely that our main target is not protecting positions and posts. I have seen the example where a captain or a lieutenant colonel resorts to a coup attempt and fails but when a country's defense minister resorts to a coup attempt and fails, well, I have never seen anything like it before. I should tell you seriously that this has not made us proud. The other day on the television—once you are involved in politics you watch television and the news, and so on—I saw a picture where four persons were sitting. Shahnawaz, the person who had never had a smile on his face in his life in any meetings, receptions and other places, is laughing loudly. The other person was called Qader Aka. I will tell you about his laugh. His mouth opens very wide when he laughs. Why is he laughing? His child is here [in Afghanistan]. His wife is here. He has left his child and wife and escaped. Is this a reason to laugh? Laughing at your lack of honor and dignity. I learned that his family tore his cap and his uniform into pieces; his wife says she was ashamed of him. He is loudly laughing there, regardless of the Afghan code and our 5,000 year old history, to kneel before a Pakistan whose age is no more than 42. Laughing at a man whose children are left behind. [as heard] I will tell you that that incident has made us humble instead of arrogant. I always think, God, innocent people get killed for this position and grandeur. Will I be accountable for that? If I gave up and they came, I warn you they would create a bloodbath here. As they say, you saw it in practice, they would do it. So we proposed all weapons should be collected and the supply of arms to Afghanistan should be ceased and elections should be held and the people themselves should propose their own candidate so calm would be guaranteed. Otherwise one asks this question every day whether sitting in this chair is worthwhile while people live in pain and wretchedness and [in fear of] death and annihilation. This is a passing world and we are going to go to the permanent world. There are keram al-katebin [the angels] who record the good and bad deeds of you every day. What will be your answer? On the contrary, victory makes us humble. It prevents us from arrogance. They sit there and laugh at the obliteration of the Afghan nation. If one says he is a spy, they should admit it. They claim that tomorrow they will come to Afghanistan and will have the leadership of Afghanistan.

Will Afghans follow that type of individual and group? In a year after the withdrawal of the limited contingents of the Soviet Union the people of Afghanistan demonstrated their stance. One important secret in our success in the recent incident, apart from the support from God, was the support of the people of Afghanistan.

I get information from across the country that people have given food [as good omens] to express their happiness on the failure of the coup d'etat. What more do we want? Only the prayer of an old women, of a father who has buried his four, five, six children, or of orphaned innocent children is enough. No more. Therefore, putting trust in God, we hope the year ahead of us, as Mr. Sayadi said, will be a year of happiness, a year of peace, a year of reconciliation and a year of the unity of the Afghan nation.

So far as your demands are concerned—I knew about them before—I have spoken to Mr. Keshtmand. The question about roads will be resolved. I have taken note of other questions related to the Ministry of Agriculture, like tractors and so forth, and will give instructions.

From the bottom of my heart I wish you happiness, prosperity, honor and dignity. God be with you. [applause]

More on Sar-e Pol Meeting

LD3103144390 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Kabul, 31 Mar (BAKHTAR)—Afghan president Najibullah met this morning with elders and representatives of people of Sar-e Pol at the presidential palace. [passage omitted]

During the meeting, Afghan President Najibullah expressed appreciation for the participation of the people of Sar-e Pol in realizing the national reconciliation policy, in ensuring peace in Sar-e Pol province and in the process of the armed forces coming over to the side of the state. He added that the Republic of Afghanistan has declared the national reconciliation policy to establish peace and end fratricidal war. However, a wrench has been thrown in the works of this logical policy which is the demand of people, both from abroad and inside the country. Fortunately, by foiling the Gulbuddin-Shah Nawaz conspiracy, this obstacle has been removed. Now, the time is right for those of our compatriots who are wandering in mountains and are standing against the Republic of Afghanistan to join the people and the national reconciliation policy and no longer allow the enemies of Afghanistan to draw our country toward war and elimination.

Najibullah described the peace proposals and initiatives of the Republic of Afghanistan. The aims of these proposals are to establish peace and end war and bloodshed in the country, form a coalition government with the participation of the involved forces, and return the refugees. He also revealed the sinister and treacherous aims of the failed coup d'etat of Gulbuddin-Shah Nawaz. These traitors wanted to jeopardize the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of our country. Najibullah added that the support and backing of the people, the heroism and bravery of the true children of this country, and the resilience of the Armed Forces were the causes which saved the beloved country of Afghans from the danger of elimination.

Najibullah instructed the relevant authorities to resolve the problems and difficulties of the people of Sar-e Pol.

At the end of the meeting, a gift was presented to Najibullah by the representatives of people of Sar-e Pol, which was received with thanks.

Najibullah Issues Decree on Property

LD0104023390 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] The Presidential Press Office reports that a decree by Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, on reinstatement of the properties under the state trustee to their owners has been issued with the following text:

The decree by the president on reinstatement of the properties under the state trustee to their owners:

To further implement the national reconciliation policy and to create a climate of trust and confidence among the subjects of the country in the field of guaranteeing the various types of legal properities and to pay attention to the private sector of the national economy and while the instructions of the sacred religion of Islam are bases of actions by the Republic of Afghanistan and in light of the instructions of the Constitution, the following are approved:

Article 1: Mobile and immobile properties of individuals and private firms including land, currency, share, firms, factory, market, shop, business office, baths [public baths], and commercial warehouses which are under the state trustee for various reasons, are released from the state trustee with the observation of the instructions of this decree and should be put at the disposal of their owners or people included in Article 2 of this decree.

Article 2: If the owner of the property is present, the property will be put at his disposal. If he is not present, the property will be given to his legal representative, his wasi, wali, and qayam [all means trustee and guardians but have legal definition in Islamic law].

Article 3: Apart from dwellings and multi-story buildings, the immobile property, which will be managed separately, will be determined by legal documents and will be given to its owner or to persons set out in Article 2 of this decree on the order of a court of law in the following manner:

1. If the property is in the possession of state administrations, corporations, state and mixed establishments and is used by them, it will be given to its owner or the persons set out in Article 2 of this decree, in two months maximum as from the date of the submission of the claim.

2. If the property is in the possession of and used by other persons, its transfer to the owner or to the persons set out in Article 2 of this decree will be rendered in six months as from the date of the submission of the claim.

3. Profit of the immobile property will be given to the proprieter or the persons set out in Article 2 of this decree as from the date of the submission of the claim at the competent court until the property is surrendered to them.

Article 4: The return of chattel or its price to the owner or persons set out in Article 2 of this decree will be rendered in the following manner:

1. The chattel possessed by state administrations, corporations, and state and mixed establishments will be returned to them completely, unless it has been sold or used.

2. If the property has been sold, the price will be paid on the basis of the registration book in which it has been registered with the deduction of a commission.

3. The price of the property which is in the possession of an administration, an institution, or an organization will be paid by them in line with the registration book.

Article 5: If ex[penditures have been made on a property by the state o[f the owner's debts have been settled by the state due to the demand of other persons, the following proc[edure will be exercised when the property is returned:
1. Proprietors[ip will be transferred to the owner or to persons set ou[t in Article 2 of this decree. State expenses will be calcula[ted on the basis of documents and will be obtained from the owner or other persons. If the owner or othe[r persons set out in Article 2 of the decree are unable to pay, the state's expenditures will be retrieved from them in five years maximum by install-ments.
2. If the owner[other persons set out in Article 2 of this law do not n[ow that proprietorship or are unable to repay the exp[enditures made by the state in line with paragraph one of this article, the property will be pur-chased at the c[urrent price from the owner with the consent and a[greement of both sides by the institution, administratio[n, corporation, or organization which pos-sesses the prop[erty.

Article 6: If the [state has increased the capital of a factory or other priva[te enterprises or has expanded them for better operatio[n, the factory or enterprise will be inves-tigated by the [order of a competent court and will be returned to th[e owner. The following procedure will be exercised as re[gards state expenditures:
1. State exper[nditures will be paid by the owner or persons set out[in Article 2 of this decree. In the case of those persons' [financial incapability, it will be retrieved in five years by [installment.
2. In the case [of the consent of the owner and other persons set out[in Article 2 of this decree, the factory will be operated in [line with the laws jointly by the owner and the state.
3. If equipmen[t, instruments, and appliances are owned by the private s[ector, which state departments have used, their price will [be paid to the owner or persons set out in Article 2 of this[decree on the accord of both sides on the basis of the do[cuments registered in related offices.

Article 7:
1. If persons s[et out in Article 2 of this decree do not appear at the c[ompetent court, the trust of the property ends and it w[ill be put under the authority of the competent cou[rt court is obliged to exercise legal and
2. The compet[ent procedures in line with Articles 323-328 of shari'a law pr[ovisions and in line with the provisions of other the Civil Code[laws, taking int[o account the period of previous absence.
3. In the case [of the nonappearance of the owner and persons set ou[t in Article 2 of this decree, in order to maintain the [factory's operations and strengthen the country's econ[omy, the competent court can put the factory in the [possession of competent sources, taking into account th[e provisions of paragraphs one and two of this article.

Article 8: If t[he proprietor is dead, the bequeathed property will b[e returned to his shari'a law heirs in line with the law an[d Islamic shari'a.

Article 9: The proprietor of the property under trust is not entitled to income and profit from the property during the period of absence.

Article 10: Competent courts and diplomatic missions of the Republic of Afghanistan are obliged to take due and quick measures for the preparation of the related documents in case of the approach of persons set out in Article 2 of this decree.

Article 11: The attorney general and national security special attorney of the Republic of Afghanistan will supervise the implementation of the provision of this decree.

Article 12: A special commission of the related organs will be set up for the preparation of the draft of the legislative document on the return of dwellings and multistory buildings. The special commission is obliged to present the document to the competent authority in three months maximum for approval.

Article 13: With the enforcement of this decree, putting under the state's trust individual's chattel and immobile property is forbidden. Persons' property will be treated by state organs in line with the Constitution of the country and other enforced laws of the country.

Article 14: This decree will be enforced as from the date of receiving assent and will be published in the Official Gazette.

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan.

Details of Peace Front Commission Meeting

LD3003105890 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Kabul, March 29, BAKHTAR—The commission on drafting documents of the Peace Front of Afghanistan held its extra-ordinary session today.

The session which was presided over by 'Abdul Hakim Tawana, president of Peasants' Justice Party of Afghanistan, discussed the organisation of the committee on drafting the platform of Peace Front in Afghanistan and press committee which reflects the objectives of Peace Front inside and outside the country and collects the views, suggestions and proposals of the Afghan people. The above-mentioned committees each were formed with a 14-member composition. The members of these commitees are composed of the competent representatives of all parties and social and political organisations.

The commission decided that the draft program with the commission's message should be sent to all political, national, religious, parties and organisations inside and outside the country inviting them not only to send their views and proposals to the commission's address but to fulfil their national and Islamic obligations by participating in the formation of Peace Front of Afghanistan which is depicting the national unity of the Afghan people.

Judicial Delegation Visits Balkh Province

LD3003173490 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Nizamuddin Tahzib, chief justice of the Supreme Court, as head of an authoritive delegation has recently assessed the activities of the courts in Balkh, Jawzjan, and Samangan provinces, and evaluated the judicial and administrative activities of these courts. Specific instructions were given for sound judicial procedures to ensure justice and to put into practice the instructions of the Constitution and the law on the structure and authorities of the courts in connection with the realization, explanation, and alteration of laws as well as ensuring the role of legal issues in various aspects of judicial practice. This was approved by the judges and personnel of these courts.

The delegation returned to Kabul today.

Various Sources Give Accounts of Recent Action

Islamabad Reports 'Fierce Fighting'

BK2903162590 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan speak of fierce fighting between mujahidin and Kabul regime troops in various parts of the country. The mujahidin, in an attack in Ghazni Province, destroyed two tanks and a number of vehicles of the Kabul regime. Sixty soldiers of the Kabul regime also defected to the mujahidin. The mujahidin destroyed several strategic outposts of the Kabul regime in Badakhshan Province.

Kabul Garrison 'Mopping Up'

LD3103164390 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] The units and companies of Kabul garrison have carried out a series of mopping up operations during the last four days in order to present [as heard] terroristic actions of the extremists supported by Pakistan. The BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY military section reports that in the course of these mopping up operations 89 extremists were crushed and 65 others were wounded. And 437 surface-to-surface missiles rocket [as heard], 300 shells of recoilless gun, 70 mortar shells, three cases of heavy machine gun shells and 15 handgrenades were seized by the units and companies which were part of the operation. Also as a result of these operations, three reactive [rocket projectiles] systems, two mortars, a DShK, four rocket launchers, three vehicles loaded with arms and ammunition and an ammunition depot were destroyed.

Conflict Intensification

BK0104153490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] According to reports received from Afghanistan, mujahidin have intensified their activities in Qandahar and Balkh Provinces and around Kabul and inflicted loss of life and property on the Kabul regime. MIDIA [Media Information Department of Islamic Afghanistan] reports that the mujahidin shot down two helicopter gunships in Daman District of Qandahar Province on Friday [30 March], killing its seven crew members. The mujahidin also seized four anti-aircraft guns.

Rebels Down Two Helicopters

BK0104114890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1137 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Islamabad, April 1 (AFP)—Afghan guerrillas have shot down two transport helicopters near southern Qandahar City, killing five crew members, resistance sources said Sunday [1 April].

The helicopters crashed in the Daman area, 15 kilometers (9 miles) east of Afghanistan's second largest city, after they were fired on by U.S.-made Stinger missiles, the pro-resistance AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP) reported.

Quoting a local rebel leader, AIP said the helicopters had been returning to Kalat after transporting food and other consumer goods to Qandahar.

It said rebel mujahidin had recovered the bodies of five crew members from the wreckage.

Rebel Groups Clash

LD0204092390 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0512 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 1, BAKHTAR—In the past three days, 25 persons were killed, 23 injured and 30 became captive to each other from the belligerent sides as a result of armed clashes that took place between the extremist groups of Gulbuddin and Mawlawi Nabi in Alinegar district, Laghman Province, recently, reports BAKHTAR military correspondent.

Moreover, five inhabitants of the neighbouring villages including one child and two women were killed, six houses destroyed and huge financial losses were inflicted to our countrymen owing to their clashes in which heavy weapons and surface-to-surface missiles were used by the both sides.

Tanay Says Struggle Continues, Urges Support

BK0104004090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1845 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, March 31 (AFP)—The leader of a failed Kabul coup attempt, General Shahnawaz Tanay, said Saturday his struggle was continuing from a mobile base inside Afghanistan.

Gen. Tanay took part in a "wireless press conference" organized by the fundamentalist Afghan rebel leader

Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, and reporters in this northwestern city bordering Afghanistan were allowed to ask questions by radio.

An official of Mr. Hekmatyar's AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY, Nawab Salim, translated Gen. Tanay's comments from Pashtu to English.

The general said that he was continuing to "lead forces from a mobile base inside Afghanistan."

He also lauded Mr. Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami party and called on other Afghan resistance factions to make the "wise" choice and "take advantage of the situation" by joining him.

The interim resistance government based here recently rejected any alliance with Gen. Tanay, describing him as a "communist criminal" blamed for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Afghans during the Soviet occupation.

Gen. Tanay again denied that he had taken refuge in Pakistan, but refused to say where exactly in the "Afghan interior" he was operating citing "security reasons."

Several Peshawar-based journalists said that Gen. Tanay has been in the hands of the Pakistani secret service since his failed coup bid against President Najibullah in early March.

The Hezb-e Eslami organized a press outing on March 15 in Logar Province, south of Kabul, where a group of journalists met briefly with Gen. Tanay.

USSR Supreme Soviet Sends Najibullah Greeting

LD0104095190 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, March 31, BAKHTAR—Addressed to Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA), a message of congratulations and gratitude of the members of the USSR Supreme Soviet has arrived to Kabul today.

The message says: On behalf of those members of the USSR Supreme Soviet who had visited the Republic of Afghanistan some time ago and the representatives of the people of the Soviet Union who are interested in cessation of war and ensurance of peace in the Republic of Afghanistan congratulate you and through you all people of Afghanistan on the new Afghan year 1369 (started March 21, 1990).

The message expresses once again gratitude and thanks to the warm hospitality of the people of Afghanistan extended to the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation during their stay in the Republic of Afghanistan.

India

Bill on Extending Punjab President's Rule Fails

BK3003130890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] The Constitution 64th amendment bill to extend president's rule in Punjab fell through in the Lok Sabha today for want of the requisite majority. It fell at the consideration stage as only 241 members were present in the house, which is less than half of the total strength. The deputy speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil, ruled that the motion moved by the home minister was not carried. The parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. P. Upendra, and the allies of the ruling front requested a revote on grounds of failure of the voting machine, which was not accepted by the opposition Congress-I. However, the leader of the opposition, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, later agreed to a suggestion from the chair that all sides would cooperate in getting the bill passed, which enjoys unanimous support. Consultations will be held outside the house to find a solution.

In the Rajya Sabha, several Congress-I members wanted to know from the government the fate of the Constitution 64th amendment bill. The prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, informed the house that though the bill received the support of more than two-thirds majority of the members present in the Lok Sabha, there was a requirement of the presence of half of the total strength in the house. He said it was agreed that all leaders of parties will discuss the matter with the chair to find a solution. The prime minister said the matter is pending with the chair and the government will abide by his ruling.

Singh Discusses Bill

BK3103152990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] The Prime Minister Mr. V.P. Singh held a meeting this morning with leaders of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] and CPI [Communist Party of India] and discussed the future course of action on the constitutional amendment bill seeking to extend the president's rule in Punjab by another six months beyond the 10th of May. The bill fell through in the Lok Sabha yesterday for want of requisite voting strength. Mr. L.K. Advani, Mr. Somnath Chatterjee, and Mr. Indrajit Gupta represented their parties and union ministers—Professor Madhu Dandavate, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, and Mr. P. Upendra—were present at the meeting.

Our correspondent understands that the prime minister has taken a serious view of the large-scale absence of members of the National Front during voting on the bill in the Lok Sabha despite the whip to them to be present on Friday [30 March] in the house. As a further precaution, the parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. Upendra, wrote to leaders of various parties in the Lok Sabha,

including the Congress-I, to ensure presence of their members during the voting on the bill. In spite of all these precautions, absenteeism during the voting was high. According to information, 128 Congress-I, 57 National Front, 49 BJP, six CPI-M, five CPI and one RSP [Revolutionary Socialist Party] members did not participate in the voting.

According to present indications, the home minister will introduce the bill in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday [4 April] when the house meets after the holidays. The voting can take place either the same day or the next day, and further discussion on the bill may not be necessary as it has already been debated in the house. Consultations are also on among various parties on the date for convening the Rajya Sabha for passing the bill. Our correspondent adds that 33 new members elected to the Rajya Sabha in place of those retiring on the 2d of next month may take their oath on the opening day of the house. Telegrams are being sent to all the newly elected members to reach Delhi. The Rajya Sabha is expected to be convened on the fifth or sixth of next month to pass the bill.

Vote Called Setback for Singh

BK3103073090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0726 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] New Delhi, March 31 (AFP)—The Indian Government's failure to muster enough votes in Parliament for a constitutional amendment was played by newspapers here Saturday as a major setback for Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh.

The amendment, which sought to extend New Delhi's direct rule over troubled Punjab State, failed to win approval in the lower house of Parliament Friday due to what one newspaper called "glaring absenteeism."

"Political experts see this development as the National Front government's first major failure," THE ECONOMIC TIMES said, adding that President Ramaswamy Venkataraman's absence from the country had also contributed to the crisis.

The president is on a three-nation tour of Portugal, Britain, and Malta and is expected to return home on April 9.

The government had expected a shoo-in in the lower house Friday as the upper house was nearly unanimous in approving the bill with the largest single opposition party, the Congress (I) of former Premier Rajiv Gandhi, backing it.

"The dramatic development took Parliament completely by surprise, since the bill, supported by all the major parties in the upper house including the Congress (I), was widely seen as a fait accompli," THE INDIAN EXPRESS said.

THE TIMES OF INDIA quoted Mr. Gandhi as saying that the defeat of the bill showed the "total incompetence of the government. We will now see how they can be helped to come out of this mess constitutionally."

The English language HINDU said the opposition's delight at the government's "acute embarrassment and discomfiture" was quite evident.

"It is to be seen if a fallout of the embarrassment will be a round of disciplinary action within the National Front of the Janatha Dal Party (of Mr. V. P. Singh)," the HINDU said.

Despite repeated orders by the parliamentary whip, some key MPs, including ministers of the National Front government, were absent in Parliament at the time of voting, THE INDIAN EXPRESS said.

Only 252 members of the 524 assembly were present at the time and the four-month-old government was 20 votes short of seeing the amendment through.

Under the Constitution, the government can present the bill once again.

However, it must do so before Friday or the current direct rule over Punjab, where Sikh militants are leading a violent seperatist campaign, will lapse and state elections will have to be held.

More than 300 people have died in militant-related violence in Punjab this year alone.

Political Leaders To Meet on Bill

BK0104093490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Leaders of various political parties in Parliament are to meet on Wednesday [4 April] morning to decide the schedules of passing the Constitution amendment bill seeking to extend president's rule in Punjab by another six months. The present term of president's rule in the state expires on the 10th of next month. The 64th amendment, which fell through the Lok Sabha on Friday [30 March], will be introduced by the home minister.

Our correspondent reports that further discussion on the bill may not be necessary, as it has already been debated in both the houses. However, the Rajya Sabha is expected to be convened on Thursday [5 April] or on Friday [6 April] to pass the bill. The prime minister has already had a round of talks with leaders of various political parties on the future course of action to find a way out to overcome the procedural wrangle.

It may be recalled that prior to bringing the bill in Parliament, the government had a meeting with opposition leaders and there was a consensus that in view of the prevalent situation in the state an election cannot be held at present.

Singh Message to Li Peng on Anniversary of Ties

BK3103104590 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, has said that India and China have entered a new phase in their relations. In a message to the Chinese Prime Minister Mr. Li Peng on the eve of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, Mr. Singh expressed confidence that mutually beneficial cooperation between India and China will be further strengthened on the basis of Pancasila [the five principles of coexistence] during the nineties. He said such a cooperation can herald an era of peace and stability in Asia and the world as a whole.

Reportage on Situation in Jammu, Kashmir

Three Killed, 31 Arrested

BK3103091690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, three subversives were killed and 31 arrested by the security forces in two different raids in the valley last night. In (Jamagunj Chowki Bagh) area of (Kufwara) District, the security forces spotted a group of subversives trying to cross over to Pakistan for arms training. On being challenged, some of the subversives tried to run away. The security forces opened fire, killing three, while 25 others were arrested.

Six subversives were arrested on the Sopor-Srinagar Road last night. One Kalashnikov rifle and one pistol were recovered from them.

According to an official spokesman, the decision to impose night curfew in the five-kilometer border belt and the reorganization of intelligence network in the Kashmir valley has yielded good results. Forty-three subversives have been arrested and 14 killed during the last two days. Meanwhile, curfew has been relaxed for 12 hours from 0800 this morning in Jammu. Life is near normal in the city. In Srinagar, the curfew was relaxed for four hours from 0500 this morning.

More Deaths, Arrests Reported

BK3103145490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Pakistan-trained militants made an abortive bid to infiltrate into the Indian territory at (Minder) border in Jammu division today. The subversives ran back into the Pakistan-occupied territory on being challenged by the security forces. They left behind a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

Meanwhile, in the Kashmir valley, four militants were killed and 41 arrested in three separate incidents since yesterday evening.

Curfew was relaxed for four hours in Srinagar this morning. Three hours relaxation has been given again from 1700 this evening. The curfew will be relaxed for six hours from 0500 tomorrow.

In Jammu, the curfew was relaxed for 12 hours from 0800 this morning. No incident has been reported from anywhere. Prominent writers and artistes of Jammu have appealed to the people of Jammu not to allow themselves to be exploited by antisocial elements having nefarious designs.

15 'Subversives' Killed in 3 Days

BK0104072890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] In Jammu, day curfew has been lifted from today in the old city. Night curfew will, however, continue, as a precautionary measure from 2000 in the evening to 0700 in the morning. In Srinagar, curfew has been relaxed for six hours from 0500 this morning.

Security forces have intensified raids on the suspected hideouts of subversives in the last four days. Security in the border areas has also been tightened to check the movement and infiltration of the subversives from Pakistan. During the last three days 15 subversives have been killed and 53 arrested. A large quantity of arms has also been recovered in Keran, Chak Bowal, Uri, and Mendhar sectors. Dusk-to-dawn curfew has been imposed in the five-kilometer belt along the international border and the line of control.

More 'Subversives' Arrested

BK0104124890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] In Kashmir Valley, 19 subversives have been arrested in two different places along the India-Pak [Pakistan] border since last evening. This brings the total arrest of Pak-trained subversives to 72 in the last three days. The batch of terrorists taken into custody last evening were trying to cross over to Pakistan for getting advanced training in sophisticated weapons and secure arms and ammunition for subversive activities.

Meanwhile, the situation in Srinagar and elsewhere in the valley remained by and large peaceful today.

19 'Terrorists' Killed, 79 Arrested

BK0204032290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir governor, Mr. Jag Mohan, has apprised the home minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, of the law and order situation in the state. Mr. Jag Mohan, who is in New Delhi, met Mr. Sayeed yesterday. Senior officials of the Home Ministry were present during an hour-long meeting. Mr. Jag Mohan is to meet today the minister in charge of Kashmir affairs, Mr. George Fernandes, and some other union ministers.

Reports from the valley say four terrorists were killed in an encounter with the security forces in Anantnag yesterday. Two AK-47 rifles were recovered from them. Another AK-47 rifle and four magazines were recovered from a house in the area during search by security forces. Five subversives were arrested in the (Arepattan) village of Badgom District. A large quantity of explosive material and electronic detonators were recovered from them.

Nineteen terrorists have been killed and 79 arrested during the last four days' drive by the security forces against the militants in the Kashmir Valley.

Singh Apprised of Kashmir Situation

BK0204085590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] The governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. Jag Mohan, called on the Prime Minister Mr. V.P. Singh in New Delhi this morning and apprised him of the latest law and order situation in the state. During his 45-minute meeting, Mr. Jag Mohan is understood to have explained to the prime minister the steps he has taken to further tighten the security in the state to check insurgency.

Mr. Jag Mohan told Mr. Singh that an intensive search is going on to nab the 12 subversives who managed to escape from the Central Jail in Srinagar recently. He explained to Mr. Singh that a very strict vigil is being kept on the borders.

The governor also had a long meeting with the home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, yesterday.

'Terrorists,' Others Killed in Punjab

BK3103163490 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] In Punjab, eight persons, including five terrorists, have been killed in separate incidents since last night. An official spokesman said two terrorists were killed in an encounter with police in Birlada area of Bhatinda District this afternoon. Two hard-core terrorists were killed in an encounter in a village in Amritsar District. Security forces have arrested 10 terrorists during raids at different places in the state. Some arms and ammunition have been recovered.

7 'Terrorists' Killed

BK0104144290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] In Punjab, 12 persons, including seven terrorists, have been killed in separate incidents since last evening.

According to an official spokesman, three terrorists were killed in a village in Amritsar District and four in Bhatinda and Kapurthala Districts in separate encounters with security forces last night. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered from them. In an encounter in Amritsar District, a passer-by was also killed. Elsewhere in the state, terrorists gunned down a petrol pump owner, a farmer, and two others this afternoon.

More on Punjab Deaths

BK0204033390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] In Punjab, six persons, including four terrorists and an assistant subinspector of police, have been killed in separate incidents of terrorist activities since last night. In Ferozepore District, two terrorists were killed in an ambush near (Hamad) in Mamdot area early this morning and two in village Gangna last night. Elsewhere in the state, terrorists shot dead an assistant subinspector of police on leave in Thanda area of Hoshiarpur District and a village sarpanch [headman] in Lakhowal in Amritsar District last evening.

640 Die in 1990

BK0104005690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1804 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] New Delhi, March 31 (AFP)—A total of 640 people have died in violence linked to Sikh militancy in Punjab State so far this year, the northern state's police chief was quoted by the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) as saying Saturday.

Director-General of Punjab Police K.P.S. Gill reportedly said that Sikh militants fighting for an independent homeland called Khalistan, or land of the pure, had shot dead 392 civilians in the first quarter of 1990.

Some 79 police personnel and 169 separatists also died, mostly in gunfights, Mr. Gill was quoted as telling reporters in the sensitive border state's Patiala town.

He said the state administration had decided to train the residents of Punjab districts bordering Pakistan and arm them with sophisticated police weapons as part of the anti-militancy drive.

India has repeatedly accused Pakistan of aiding Sikh militants, a charge rejected by Islamabad.

PTI said in a separate report that about 10 people, including two hardcore militants identified as Manjit Singh and Gurdip Singh, were fatally wounded in shoot-outs with troopers in Punjab late Friday and Saturday.

Fishermen 'Taken' by LTTE Return 'Safely'

BK3103092490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] All the 311 fishermen along with their 65 boats who disappeared in Palk Straits from Nagappattinam area in Tamil Nadu on Wednesday [28 March] have returned home safely. The district officials received them and handed them over to their families yesterday. This was stated by the Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr. M. Karunanidhi, in the state assembly today. He said the

fishermen were taken away by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam], alleging that they had crossed into Sri Lankan territorial waters.

Indian Forces' Role in Sri Lanka Viewed

BK3003133090 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Samir Pal commentary: "India Concludes Peacekeeping in Sri Lanka"]

[Text] The last of the 1,170 soldiers of the Indian Peacekeeping Force in Sri Lanka flew to New Delhi on March 28th, three days ahead of the final pullout date agreed to between the Governments of Sri Lanka and India. Committed in a role to preserve the unity and integrity of Sri Lanka in the face of militant Tamil separatism for four years before the Rajiv Gandhi-Junius Jayewardene accord of July 1987, the Indian troops have in two and half years of their deployment and at a cost of 1,150 of their comrades announced dead managed to keep the country together or at least stalled any progress toward a distinct Tamil-Sinhala territorial divide for the time being. This is their hour of glory to have come home with a major element of their assigned role accomplished.

The other part was to disarm the Tamil militants to create the atmosphere for a peaceful political settlement of the Tamil aspiration of some degree of autonomy provoked by over 35 years of Sinhala majority's discriminatory attitude flowing from some degree of Tamil dominance during the British colonial rule.

As the peace force commander, Lieutenant General A.S. Kalkat, said on arrival at New Delhi airport with the four planeloads of the inducted troops: As against 700 weapons that the major militant group, Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE], were reported to be having in July 1987, the Indian troops captured 2,500—more than three times the number estimated. We have disarmed the LTTE, but the supply being continuous, there can be nothing like disarming in perpetuity. Almost all the arms carried by the smaller militant Tamil groups opposed to the LTTE's full representative group ideology were either obtained by the Indian troops during August 1987 or accounted for.

Lt. Gen. Kalkat said that the large buildup of arms by the militants subsequently had taken place under the benign auspices of the present Sri Lankan Government. The Indian Army had no place in the emerging arena of political dynamics, but it had brought about an environment in which a political dialogue between the opposing factions was no longer impossible.

Prime Minister V.P. Singh addressing the troops on the airport tarmac at the homecoming ceremony on March 28th commended the sincerity with which they had carried out their difficult assignment. He recalled that the Indian troops had been sent in at the end of July 1987 at the request of the Sri Lankan government in accordance with the terms of the accord signed in Colombo.

Foreign Minister I.K. Gujral told the Rajya Sabha on 28th March that India would now persuade Sri Lanka to create the proper conditions for the early return of 90,000 Tamil refugees now in Tamil Nadu and another 1,612 sheltered in Orissa. The refugees, who came by ship to Paradip port in Orissa, had been thoroughly searched to ensure that they were not carrying arms.

Mr. Gujral declared that India does not want to interfere in the internal affairs of Sri Lanka and hopes to have cordial relations with Colombo. He made it clear that no specific assurances had been given to the erstwhile Northeast Provincial Council's ruling coalition party, the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front, leaders about asylum in India.

In conclusion, it can be said that India has done its duty in standing by the Sri Lankan Government and its people when the island republic was facing a Cyprus-like ethnic split. If the autonomy of the Northeastern Province in terms of political, legal, and administrative devolution of power from Colombo did not take place as envisaged, it was because of the intense rivalries between the dominant LTTE and other groups.

Political imperatives of President Ranasinghe Premadasa's government, despite fair elections, impelled it to stall transfer of any decision-making powers to Northeastern Province Chief Minister Varadaraja Perumal's government and negotiate a separate peace with the LTTE instead. As the situation in Sri Lanka appears to be settling down, there is hope in India that the Sri Lankan Government will claim back the Tamil refugees as its own people and create the necessary conditions soon for return to their hearths and homes.

Outcome of India-Bangladesh Border Talks Reported

BK0204050090 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Infiltration by Chakmas and other people from Bangladesh into India has given rise to several human and security-related problems. Earlier this week, the Border Security Force [BSF] and the Bangladesh Rifles held talks in New Delhi to discuss these problems in depth. A report from Doordarshan correspondent, Jag Mohan Bhasin, on the outcome of the talks:

[Begin recording] [Bhasin] For quite some time, there has been continuing infiltration by Bangladeshi nationals into India across the 4,000-km long Indo-Bangladesh border. This has given rise to serious security and human problems. In several areas of Tripura and Meghalaya, infiltrators have been found stealing forest produce and coal. These activities have generated tension among the local population. Instances of cross-border smuggling and abduction of minor girls for illicit services have also come to light. At the recently held

talk
con
ks, the Bangladesh Rifles delegation shared India's
ncern at the continuing infiltration.

[BS
use
F Director General H.P. Bhatnagar] We had very
amc
ful talks with the Bangladesh Rifles delegation and
infil
ong the major issues that we discussed was the
larg
iltration of Bangladeshi nationals into India in very
we
e numbers, and we (?told) them the areas from which
grav
have done large interceptions. They agreed with the
arra
vity of the problem and undertook to tighten the
plac
angements in the areas where the infiltration is taking
ce.

[Bh
mai
iasin] Besides, both sides have agreed to repair and
who
intain border pillars. Information regarding criminals
be
o indulge in drug trafficking and smuggling will also
enga
shared. More important, the activities of touts
tore
aged in trafficking of women will be closely moni-
imm
d. BSF and Bangladesh Rifles have also agreed to
dees
mediately hold flag meetings in order to defuse and
reco
scalate any problem arising at the local level. [end
ording]

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***BK*hi Reports Indian President's Talks in Lisbon**

*143*0104150290 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0 GMT 1 Apr 90*

[Tex
t] India and Portugal have welcomed the move
towa
ard German reunification and supported the process
of d
emocratization in Eastern Bloc countries, leading to
a un
nited and peaceful Europe. The developments in
East
tern Europe and the prospects of the German reuni-
ficat
tion came up for discussion at the talks between the
pres
ident, Mr. R. Venkataraman, and the Portuguese
also
ident, Mr. Mario Soares, in Lisbon. The two leaders
and
exchanged views on the development in the EEC
opin
the impact of single market in 1992 on the devel-
g countries, especially India.

On
the second day of his three-day state visit, Mr.
Venk
kataraman met some prominent members of the
Indi
an community. Tomorrow, the president will
addr
ess the extraordinary plenary session of the Portu-
gues
he assembly, which has been summoned especially in
his
honor. Mr. Venkataraman will also hold talks with
the
prime minister, Mr. Anibal Cavako Silva.

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***BK0*an Rights Panel Issues Memo to Indian Envoy**

*1530*104161690 Delhi Domestic Service in English
GMT 1 Apr 90*

[Text
] The Human Rights Organization of Nepal has
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nitted a memorandum to the Indian ambassador in
into
mandu. The memorandum urges India not to enter
comp
any agreement with Nepal till the restoration of
plete democracy and human rights in the country.

The
buro CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] Polit-
their
has expressed solidarity with the people of Nepal in
coun
struggle for a democratic political system in the
try. In a press statement in New Delhi today, the Politburo alleged that many lives have been lost and new legislative measures are being taken to suppress the growing movement.

Spokesman Rejects Akali Dal-Mann Charge

BK3003160290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] An official spokesman in New Delhi today described as totally incorrect the claim of the president of the Akali Dal-Mann that the National Front government has failed to fulfill its promises on Punjab. Outlining various steps taken to bring back normalcy to the state, the spokesman said vigorous efforts have been made to find a national consensus and all-party meetings were held in New Delhi and Chandigarh. He pointed out that Mr. Mann chose not to associate himself with these efforts.

Meanwhile, Mr. Mann said in a statement in New Delhi that peace can return to Punjab only by restoring the democratic process and not by stifling it. He blamed the previous Congress-I government for carrying out repression against the people of the state. He said however, toward the end of their term they realized that the bullet was not the answer to the Punjab problem.

At a press conference in New Delhi, Mr. Mann said he and two of his colleagues—members-elect to the Lok Sabha—who were to take oath today have decided to put it off again. He said the decision not to take oath was taken at a party meeting this morning.

Explosion Kills 4 in Andhra Pradesh 1 Apr

BK0104145290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] According to a PTI report from Warangal in Andhra Pradesh, four persons were killed in a powerful explosion that rocked an arrack godown in Sambulipet area today. Police says the explosion killed three arrack contractors who were inside the godown and a boy sleeping in the adjacent courtyard.

The cause of the explosion is being investigated.

Iran

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayers

LD3003145790 Tehran IRNA in English 1247 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran March 30, IRNA—Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i said on Friday that the Islamic Republic relies solely on the nation's determination and their capacity for ending all forms of economic dependency. He said in the present century the revolutionary countries which were mainly inclined to the East received help from the Eastern club, and cited China as one example of such countries which he said, received technical and other help from the Soviet Union for several

years. The leader of the Islamic revolution made the remarks at Friday congregational prayers before a large group of fasting worshippers at Tehran University campus and the nearby streets on the first Friday of the fasting month of Ramadan.

In his first sermon, the ayatollah congratulated the Muslims of the world on the advent of the holy month of Ramadan calling on them to read and think more deeply about the holy Koran and make a better effort to live according to the Koranic dictates especially during the holy month of Ramadan. The leader of the Islamic republic referred to the value to the nation of cultural independence and said the Islamic Republic proved from the outset that it rejects corrupt and worthless culture of the West. He said cultural inroads upon other nations is the most effective method for dominating those nations. He noted that for sometime in the past France, Britain and the United States pursued cultural infiltration in other nations as a prelude to political domination.

Ayatollah Khamene'i said culture is an indispensable part of the identity of each nation, and noted that the Iranians have an "independent Islamic culture". He said Islam is specific for its dictates on the manner of relations between the two genders as much as it is straightforward and unambiguous in areas such as education, business dealings, and other personal and social activities.

Elsewhere and in relation with April 1, the Islamic Republic Day, Ayatollah Khamene'i said: "The world did not know of such a political system, because it was unprecedented. Previously there were few other Islamic governments in Asia or Africa, and on that token all foreign governments expected to see a kind of Islamic government here on the model of other Islamic governments: one bearing the adjective "Islamic" without having Islamic qualities in essence. That is a country in which the legal system is not committed to devise laws consistent with the sharia laws of Islam, and in which government administrators are not committed to propagating Islam, such countries would in effect be identical with un-Islamic nations.

"As the constitution of the Islamic republic was compiled by a group of militant Islamists and Muslim scholars and with the passage of some time, the foreign governments realized that the government in Iran is truly Islamic, and that it is committed to administering the affairs of the state consistent with Islam, and hence the alignments for and against the Islamic republic.

"Before the institution of an Islamic republic in Iran the world knew only two forms of governments other than purely authoritarian governments: first, the western type of democracies in the western countries and in their satellites, and secondly communist governments in the name of proletariat governments.

"The two forms of political and administrative systems were essentially opposed to each other and fought each other, upon the advent of the Islamic republic, however, both the Western bloc and the Eastern camp were panicked and aligned themselves against the Islamic Republic. The reason being the peculiar features of the Islamic Republic, which rejected the two other forms of political systems and which considered them as being against the best interests of the humanity.

"In other words in some areas the West and East had the same identity. Among their common peculiarities, for example, they both propagated and legitimized loose morals and unprincipled freedom, and indulgence in carnal desires and sensual pleasures.

"Islam, in contrast, is opposed to such practices. The Islamic Republic announced to the Iranian nation that it shall safeguard the independence of its subjects, and that it will guarantee them political, economic and above all cultural independence. That is, although the Islamic Republic started a march towards economic independence from the very minute it was born but it did not want to go only as far as attaining economic independence without being independent in other areas.

"To attain that ultimate goal, we still have a lot to do. Our youth should educate themselves so that we may attain that status which is vitally needed by the country...

"In the West the two genders have unhampered relations including unlimited sexual freedom, and absence of hejab [Islamic head covering] which has created problems even for the Western nations. The West exported that sort of culture to other nations, though the Islamic Republic of Iran resisted that and insisted that it believes in hejab and modest forms of dressing and in relations between the two genders on the basis of the Islamic edicts.

"That is one reason for the hostility of the Western governments with Iran. Had the Islamic government agreed to some degree of unhealthy relations between the two genders the antagonism by those governments would diminish or perhaps would come to an end. The Islamic Republic of Iran is antagonized by all Western circles because it dictates the observance of hejab.

"In the Western countries drinking of liquor is a social value, and the Westerners do not laud a country such as the Islamic republic at which alcohol is forbidden...The West maintains close relations with the countries in which there is little evidence of democracy and of mass participation in the administration of the state affairs, and in which the principles of the human rights and civil rights are disregarded. In contrast the Islamic Republic of Iran which has the most independent and the strongest of all world parliaments has since its establishment been antagonized by her enemies.

"The freedom of the people for electing presidents and for Majlis deputies is dissimilar throughout the world. Each and every citizen here elects the candidate of his own choice with full freedom, whereas in the majority of

countries which pretend to be democratic the presidential candidate is nominated by the ruling parties in those countries, without the people necessarily knowing him in person.

"The (Iraqi) war was imposed on the Islamic Republic as a result of the antagonism of the foreign powers which fact was recently admitted by certain print and broadcast media of the world. The Islamic Republic braved all that sort of antagonism and rather than becoming weak, it grew more mightier and awakened world Muslims.

"By maintaining our unity and our enterprise and by challenging our enemies and placing our trust in God the torch of Islam shall give out more light each day and shall make you the focus of attention of the world people...From now on we should actually demonstrate the fruit of the struggle of our people to the world...Much as we still continue to be antagonized by our enemies, but since we have the backing of the Almighty, and have a country with rich resources and a nation of intelligent youths we hope that our people will build the edifice of the Islamic Republic in a manner that it will motivate world Muslims and make them more enthusiastic followers of Islam."

Ayatollah Khamene'i Delivers Second Sermon

LD3003153490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1240 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Second sermon of Friday prayers delivered by Ayatollah Khamene'i, in Tehran on 30 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] In the second sermon I want to briefly talk about the Islamic Republic because of the approaching 1 April, which has been declared Islamic Republic Day. On that day in 1980 the world saw a government with this name and these characteristics.

Literally, Islamic Republic means that this government is based on the two principles. The first is that it is a republic, that is, for all the people, the population; that it is they who determine the running of the country and government organizations. The second is that it is Islamic, that is, this movement of the people is based on Islamic ideology and jurisprudence. [passage omitted]

The world had not known such a system; it was unprecedented. Of course, there were other countries before us called Islamic republics. In Asia there is a country which is officially an Islamic republic. In Africa there is a country which also is officially called an Islamic republic. Perhaps there were people in the world, and even inside the country, who at first thought that this Islamic republic was like the other two Islamic republics, which were set up years ago; that its name is Islamic, but in practice it is no different from non-Islamic countries; that the parliaments and the legislative machinery are not responsible for laying down laws in accordance with Islamic jurisprudence, the heads of state are not responsible for propagating Islam, and the people in such countries do not expect their governments to be Islamic. [passage omitted]

However, after a short period, when the Constitution of the Islamic Republic was prepared by Islamic experts, Muslims, and people, some of whom had fought for Islam for some years and some who were Islamic theologians and scholars, it became apparent that this Islamic Republic is truely Islamic, that it is designed to guide and manage the society on the basis of Islamic ideology.

That was when factions began to form. Those who have followed events closely may remember that around the middle of the first term of the Assembly of Experts, which was preparing the Constitution, whispers hostile and in opposition to Islamic issues gradually started. Until then no one had shown any reaction to the word Islam, being Islamic, and the Islamic republic. It was from then that certain groups inside the country, and maybe mouthpieces abroad, embarked on a propaganda war against Islamic ideology because the Islamic nature of the republic became apparent. [passage omitted]

However, when progressive countries of the world were able to free themselves from those kinds of despotism, they experienced, understood, and accepted two types of government: one, Western democracies, which were current in Western countries and their satellites; the other, Communist governments, which they themselves called workers' governments although the leadership consisted of rich people and aristocrats, not workers. At the top of the pyramid of those powers, those who ruled and governed were no different from those rulers and leaders who were not to their liking. However, they were called workers' governments and dictatorships of the proletariat, the so-called Marxist and socialist governments. The world knew those two types of government.

They were opposed to one another; one was the Western camp, the other the Eastern camp. And they seriously confronted one another. They negated and fought one another. However, when the Islamic Republic came into being—this new type of government—both camps confronted the Islamic Republic, first with amazement and then with fear. Why? What was the reason?

The reason was that the Islamic Republic possessed certain characteristics which negated both types of government current in those two camps. It considered them to be wrong and harmful to the life of humanity, and it announced that fact. Or, to put it in other words, the two types of government which were current in the East and West had certain common points, had certain commonalities. Public culture in those countries was identical and that culture consisted of dragging every individual abandonment and surrender of the reins on lust and physical desires. That was something which existed and which does exist in both types of government. That is the joint culture of the East and the West.

Islam was opposed to that joint characteristic and it declared its opposition. It announced that the Islamic Republic guarantees and provides the full independence of the nation under it jurisdiction, and that full independence includes political and economic independence and, more than anything else, cultural independence. [crowd chants]

In other words, the Islamic Republic did not confine itself to establish a government independent of the powers; that is the first step. The first step for countries which achieve independence is to make their political system independent; that is, establish a government independent of the influence of foreign powers. The Islamic Republic did not confine itself to that. It also did not confine itself to moving toward economic independence. Economic independence is more difficult and harder to attain than political independence. The strands of economic influence and the hegemony of foreign powers and governments cannot be easily severed. You can see that.

If a country wants to move toward economic independence, it needs effective manpower, wealth-generating resources, a multitude of facilities, knowledge, expertise, and many other things, as well as international scientific and technical cooperation. And countries which have newly attained independence and revolutionary countries have a difficult time attaining all those prerequisites and requirements of economic independence.

From the very first hour, our country moved toward economic independence. It is true that before the revolution the rule of dependent governments had brought about an economy entirely dependent on the West, and especially the United States. And severing those links was very difficult. But, those links were severed. We were able to move toward economic independence. Of course, we are still some distance from attaining total economic independence. The people must work, youngsters must study, and experts must strive toward that end. And people who can assist that important national goal must assist in any way they can.

Economic independence is a vital necessity for a country. When the strands of a country's economy are linked to foreigners, it means that that body's vital blood vessel is connected to some other point. Control will thus be in another's hand. We must work hard.

Those revolutionary countries with leanings toward the Eastern bloc—most of the revolutionary countries in the present century were leaning toward the East—benefited from Eastern governments and powers. For instance, when China staged its revolution, for ten years or longer the Soviet Union which was regarded as the older brother and which had led the way in the socialist revolution, provided assistance to China, economic assistance, technical assistance, the despatch of experts and technicians. The same is true of other communist countries.

However, for severing its economic t
dependence the Islamic Republic reli
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programs was cultural independence.
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cultural domination. In other words
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its personal and social values, its man
and in the work place. The Islamic
Western culture and said we have our
Islamic culture. Islam has defined the
in their social contacts. Islam has def
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all the men or all the women are corru
countries. No, we are not making suc
not making such an accusation; that i
are certainly some good and modest
there. However, there is sexual free
societies. This is a part of their culture.
the Western culture is an accepted an
unconditional issue. Some Western co
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This exists in the West, but it is something evil. This is something which has become a major problem for Western thinkers, politicians, planners and managers of Western countries. This has caused difficulties for them.

Well, the West has also exported this culture, these customs, manners and practices to all other countries. This did not exist in Islamic countries. Even in the non-Islamic countries of the East such a thing did not exist. This was imported by the West. The Islamic Republic confronted that. From the start the Islamic Republic announced it does not believe in promiscuous relations between men and women. It believes in hijab between men and women. It believes in Islamic relations between men and women. The Islamic Republic insisted on this. Some people believe this seems to be something minor, something peripheral. They are mistaken. This is a very important issue.

Let me point out here that one of the most important reasons for the intense and hostile opposition of Western governments to the Islamic Republic is this issue, and it is a very sensitive issue. If the Islamic Republic had shown some compromise on this issue, if it had allowed the Western unprincipled culture about unhealthy relations between men and women to become predominant in the society, much of the opposition of the political and nonpolitical Western circles toward the Islamic Republic would have been reduced, and some of them would have been eliminated. This is a sensitive issue.

You see that in our own country at one time they made it compulsory to give up the hijab. No one in the world objected to it. Why do you force people to give up the hijab? In our neighboring country, Turkey, they banned the hijab and even until recently some Turkish governments [as heard] continued the same ban and the same compulsion. You noticed some recent examples. No one in the world objected to it. Even in European countries that regard themselves as progressive and claim in their propaganda that the issues of human rights and the views of people are of importance to them, namely France and England, did not allow a few Muslim women or Muslim girls to wear the Islamic hijab and go to schools with the Islamic hijab. There they regard compulsion as proper and do not see any objection or fault in it. However, all those circles object to the Islamic Republic for making the hijab compulsory in society. If forcing women to a kind of clothing is to be objected to, there should be great objection to their action, because this is closer to a healthy attitude. At least the two should be regarded the same, but the West does not act consistently. It blames the Islamic Republic, as a country in which a certain form of female dress is obligatory, but it does not object to those countries which propagate nakedness and make the lack of hijab between men and women as obligatory. Why is it so? This is due to the fact that this is contrary to the culture accepted by the West, and on this issue they are very sensitive.

The West is obsessed with spreading the consumption of alcohol which it tries to portray as a positive national tradition. If a country bans the consumption of alcohol and punishes the offenders, then the West manifests its obsessiveness by referring to it as reactionarism. If a country permits alcoholic beverages and its government boosts its consumption, however, then that government is praised by them. Enforcing a way of life on the people is permissible by the West, insofar as it does not oppose Western culture. As we have repeated on several occassions, the West has good relations with those countries and governments deprived of and alienated from the most elementary democratic practices; which have no legislative parliaments. At present, if you only look at this very region of the Persian Gulf, you will see those countries that do not have a parliament; that do not hold elections; that do not have a legislative parliament; and whose leaders are not chosen by the people, but have inherited their leadership as practiced in the era of Decius; countries in which laws are not made by the people's representative in the parliament, but by an emir or a sultan. We have quite a few such countries in the Persian Gulf littoral states. The West does not, however, seem to hold anything against them. Neither the Western governments nor the so-called legal forums established to defend the human rights and liberties, seem to hold anything against them. While the Islamic Republic of Iran, which possesses the most independent and potent parliament and Majles [as heard] in the world—in very few or perhaps I can even say in no country in the world you would find a parliament as potent and independent as our Majles. [crowd chants in support] That is because, in those parliaments which are run by a party, its deputy follows the party ideology, while here, no such parties exist—there are political wings but none of those wings have any control over the decision of that Majles deputy who makes free and independent choice. Where in the world does such a Majles exist? The Islamic Republic of Iran's presidential elections has had very few precedents in the world. Stratas of people go to the ballot boxes, with their minds free of any party political propaganda. They choose a person whom they have come to know by experience, as their president for a period. Where in the world have you seen something similar?

In some countries where presidential elections are carried out by the parties, the people do not even know the presidential candidates. They have been nominated by the party, and the people out of their affection for that party or because they agree with the party ideology or for other motives, choose that person of their party's choice. It is not so here. Therefore, the most free election, the most independent Majles, and the most popularized government are found in the Islamic Republic, where the various strata of the country's officials are in close and informal contact with the people. The people care for them and they believe themselves servants of the people. The lives of the country's officials are of average standards; they do not live luxurious lifestyles like officials in other countries in the world. Such a popular country; such a popular government; such a country hold free elections; such a country is not tolerated by the so-called

democratic West, because it opposes the Western culture. This is all because the Islamic Republic declared its nonacceptance of Western and alien cultures, from the very beginning. [crowd chants in support]

Well, commanding such characteristics, the Islamic Republic declared its existence on the day of 12th Farvardin of the year 1358 [1 April 1979]. It has been 11 years; this Islamic Republic continues to live and to achieve growth and perfection.

All the anti-Islamic powers opposed the Islamic Republic. During the past few years we have always said the assistance to the Iraqi regime and its army by the East and the West in the imposed war was motivated by their fear of Islam and by their hostility toward Islam. We repeated that same remark for years from this Friday prayer platform and other platforms. Perhaps for some individuals it was difficult to accept that remark. Today the world propaganda is explicit about it. Today the newspapers, the press and the news agencies write that point explicitly. During the past week or so, journalists and members of the press and the new agencies have repeatedly said in their news coverage that the West, motivated by its enmity to Islam and its fear of militant Islam, helped Iraq to prevent the Islamic Republic from attaining a decisive military victory in the war and eliminate Iraq from the scene. They are confessing to it; they are admitting to it. Yet, against such enmity the Islamic Republic solidly and strongly stood its ground. It was not weakened; on the contrary, it was further strengthened. Beyond its own existence it also awakened the Muslims. Today we bear witness to the awakening of the Muslims. We have humbly said and would like to repeat that the present time is the age of Islam's progress, its awakening and the victory of Islam and the Muslims. That has been achieved thanks to the blessing of the Islamic Republic.

There were several factors during the past 11 years which crowned the Islamic Republic with success. One was devotion to Islam. It was also the unique leadership of our great late imam, may he be admitted to God's paradise. It was also the efforts and sacrifices of you dear people. It was the enemy's lack of familiarity with the secrets of Islamic beliefs. Such a lack of familiarity still exists. Thank God that faith still exists. That sacrifice still exists. Continue on your path through unity of word; the world awaits you.

I wanted to say a few words about individuals and the lines against the Islamic Republic inside and outside the country; however, since time is short I leave it to another occasion. I make the following recommendation to all the nation and the struggling and faithful people of our country, and I say humbly, that through unity of you people, through your courage, through your faith in Islam and because you are not afraid of the enemy—because of all that—the torch which you are carrying, which is Islam, will become brighter as the days pass by. It will attract the eyes of the nations to you more than ever. [crowd chants]

Of course, these are strong points of the Islamic Republic: points which the Iranian nation possesses—thanks be to God—and has preserved during this period. It will continue to preserve them. Relying on God, leaving your fate to God, you will continue the same path. Of course, we must build the country into a model Islamic state. That is the entity of which the enemy is afraid. Let all those who have the love of Islam and the Islamic Republic in their hearts know that, henceforth, we must be able to show to the world, in a tangible and practical way, what impact our efforts have left on the context and reality of life. Until now the country was faced with the war. Of course, the eight-year war leaves an imprint well over the eight-year period. The destruction, damage, and losses caused will take time to be made good. It is not the case that once the war came to an end all its problems would also come to an end. Moreover, arrogant powers of the world are still posised to harm the Islamic Republic. We must be on our guard. Even then, since our nation is a dynamic [zendeh] nation, since God has endowed our country and nation with immense resources, since our youth and people are, thank be to God, very talented and intelligent and efficient—that has been proved at present, in the past and throughout the history—therefore we hope that our nation, led by the country's managers and authorities will be able to build the Islamic Republic in such a way that in material as well as spiritual terms it may encourage and hearten the nations toward Islam. That shall be achieved. [crowd chants]

During the construction period all people must follow the authorities of the country on the path of the great struggle, which is the struggle to build the country. They must embark on that great struggle in united ranks, through unity of word and by making sacrifices. God willing, the Islamic society must be the standard bearer of science, industry, progress, freedom and spirituality as well as submission to God and religion and religious beliefs all over the world.

Karrubi Addresses Anniversary Gathering

LD0104142590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Speech by Mehdi Karrubi, speaker of the Majles, at celebrations marking the 11th anniversary of the Islamic Republic of Iran, at Imam Husayn Square in Tehran on 1 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. [passage omitted]

After years of struggle, self-sacrifice, perseverance and resistance, on 11 February 1979, the Islamic Revolution triumphed and on 1 April 1979 the self-sacrificing and martyrdom-seeking people of Islamic Iran went to the ballot boxes and voted for the Islamic Republic.

It is necessary to note certain points, on this great occasion today, about our dear imam's perseverance and

insistence on the Islamic Republic, and the opposition's conspiracies, ploys, and intrigues, so that the greatness of this day, the imam's role as leader, and the people's active presence could become more clear and for many years to come we would honor and celebrate this day which the imam called a religious and national day of celebration. [passage omitted]

Today we see that the Islamic Republic is as Mecca for Muslims, that the hearts of Muslims warm to it; that the Islamic Republic is concerned about the fate of all Muslims and is the protector of Islam and Muslims everywhere.

We saw how, when Soviet troops entered Afghanistan, until they left, although war was imposed on the Islamic Republic, although conspiracies were being hatched inside the country, its efforts were sabotaged, it had numerous post-revolution problems, and America was its sworn enemy and was creating difficulties for it, the Islamic Republic took a stand right from the start and condemned that occupation—it has the same stand today—and did not begrudge the combative and self-sacrificing people of Afghanistan any assistance or support.

While Lebanon is the hotbed of conspiracies hatched by America and the world of blasphemy, we see how Islamic Iran supports and protects the oppressed people of Lebanon, who are suffering injustices at the hands of occupiers, and tolerates all the hardship, pressure, and consequences of her perseverance and resistance.

The rights of the self-sacrificing people of Palestine have been violated and that Islamic land has been occupied by Zionists. Unfortunately, a number of bigots and some members of the revolutionary forces have been persuaded to compromise and yield to political ploys. However, the Islamic Republic has taken a stand and supports and gives every assistance to the Palestinian nation. Those who uncompromisingly stand for the Islamic movement and the Islamic revolution of Palestine against the Zionists, who are armed to the teeth, those who fight, make sacrifices, they say: Muslims must support and help us, and that is the duty of Muslims. Everywhere, with everything at its disposal and to the best of its ability, the Islamic Republic of Iran is supporting the Islamic revolution of Palestine, which emanates from the hearts of its risen and self-sacrificing people.

It is the Islamic Republic which supports and assists the Muslims and oppressed in Africa, as it is a significant part of its foreign policy to support the Muslims and the oppressed in Africa. [passage omitted]

It is the Islamic Republic which supports and aids the risen Muslims in [Soviet] Azerbaijan. Their hearts warm to the Islamic Republic and their mecca is the Islamic Republic and the holy Islamic system.

Whenever there are cultural attacks on dear Islam in the world, Islamic Iran takes a stand. It was the imam who decreed that Salman Rushdie was an apostate and should be killed, and it was the Islamic Republic and the majles that took a stand, severed ties with criminal Britain and incited the Muslims to stand against that injustice, cultural oppression, and insult to dear Islam.

It is the Islamic base, this resistance, perseverence and lack of compromise by the Islamic Republic against the enemies of Islam which has started a gigantic movement by Muslims in the world of Islam and outside it. Everywhere Muslims seek to attain their rights and defend dear Islam. [passage omitted]

We back any government which supports Islamic thought, defends the oppressed, has a spirit of freedom, shows enmity to global blasphemy, and opposes the Zionists. We support them, we praise them, and are grateful to them.

Just now, in Sri Lanka, its government and its parliament have ruled that the Zionists' political bureau must be shut. It was an espionage base for the Zionists. That measure is a very valuable one and, here and now, on this blessed day, we sincerely thank the Sri Lankan Government, president, and parliament for their announcement that on Friday, the end of Ramadan [27 April], on al-Quds [Jerusalem] Day, they will shut the Zionists' and Israelis' political bureau. That is the gift it has given to its Muslims and is a manifestation of the greatness which it attaches to our dear Islam.

Here and now, we advise our government, our officials, and the Foreign Ministry to support and back such governments because such movements undoubtedly face obstacles and problems and we must support and assist them. That relates to the first point about the imam's remarks in which he said this [Islamic Republic Day] is a religious celebration.

He also said: This is a national celebration. In other words, for religious minorities—although they, too, believe in divine religions—in other words, even for those who do not accept Islam or a religion, today is a day of joy, a day for celebration and festivity. Why? Because they were liberated. Because the chains of servitude were broken and they were saved from humiliation and servility. [passage omitted]

In the Islamic Republic, all of Iran's affairs must undergo change. That is from the remarks of the imam: In the Islamic Repubic all of Iran's affairs must undergo change; universities must change, the culture must change, the courts must change, the economy must change. With the establishment of an Islamic government and the Islamic republic, they must all be turned inside out. And our people must reform themselves. [passage omitted]

We see that with regard to economic matters, about which our imam said that the economy must change, that the bazaar [market] must be an Islamic bazaar, that our bazaar must be purged of unfair practices; we see that we still have economic problems and that the change

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ny terrorist organizations opposing the
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stood up to them, punished them, and
esson. [passage omitted]

now why this economic problem, those
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ficult. Why is it not confronted, and why
nted in that same severe way?

, that is, before the end of 1368 [year
h], our honorable and dear brother, His
llah Yazdi, the head of judiciary, said in
e do not have a law for executing them
rists]. Let the Majles approve the law,
t decisively. I will not contradict that
her's words; they undoubtedly do not
I want to say and announce here is that
e Majles which is known by the people.
head of the judiciary himself knows the
ause he was in the Majles for eight years;
r of the Council of Guardians on behalf
d now he is head of the judiciary.

which I am a member and which I
nce it here on the basis of my knowledge
n order to confront that evil and that
people, this Majles is prepared—and we
nd now—we were caught up then with
were the last days of the year and the
ing morning, noon, and night to discuss
udget. We were busy and I was not able
Yazdi] and say: Let them bring whatever
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so that it can punish them and give
deserts. [crowd chants in support] [pas-

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hat there are measures which should be
taken, one of which is to make it clear that they [offenders] will certainly be dealt with severely; otherwise what else is that person going to say other than: Well, the worst that could happen to me is that I would be fined, which is nothing compared to all the profits I have made. Now! If we had dealt with the Monafeqin [mojahedin-e Khalq] or with the Komeleh [Kurdish outlaws] in such a way, they would have said: The worst that could happen is that a few of us will be arrested, sentenced to three years in prison and then released. It never occured to them that we may be serious. [passage omitted]

What I am saying is that they should know they will be punished for exploiting the people who are making great sacrifices, depriving them of their potatoes and pulses. We should not allow these persons to obstruct the government, barring it from carrying out its duties to the revolutionary nation. So this is another task we should deal with.

The imam... [interrupted by chantings]. Allow me please to say this: What the dear imam wanted of us was that the Islamic Republic should be totally imbued with Islam; in other words, adherence to the Islamic jurisdictions in our Voice and Vision, the bazaars, the Majles, the government, the people, schools, industries and agriculture. Everything should be made Islamic. That is what our enemies are afraid of. All the obstructions the enemies place in our path is out of their cultural war with us; it is because they know that the Islamic government will bring to light values which will disgrace them and disrupt their position.

Just as our esteemed leader, the dear offspring of the imam [as heard] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i graciously mentioned in the Friday prayers: They have waged a cultural war against us, as a result of which they create mischief; as a result of which they wreak havac; as a result of which they use any excuse to turn against us; as a result of which we witness how, when a few vagrants chant one or two slogans in a stadium as a result of the cancellation of a match, the counter-revolutionaries exploit that to the full, pinning their hopes on such gossip. That is a manifestation of their antagonism on seeing the success of Islam; on realizing that Islam opposes their interests; that Islam does not condone their violations; that Islam has cut off the hands of the criminal America from the Islamic Iran; that it has weakened the American bases in the region; that it is revealing the ugly face of colonialism, exploitation, and hegemony to the world; and that it has created a sense of reawakening in the Muslims. We should do our utmost so as to realize the principles of our beloved Islam. [passage omitted]

Pay attention to this point: To preserve the Islamic Republic in its present Islamic mold; to safeguard the values depicted to us by the imam; to continue our struggle against blasphemy, capitalism, and America; to realize and carry out the Islamic tenets; to purify our society from corruptions, depravity, perversion, and

prostitution, we should heed the instructions of the imam. The revolution is the most important heritage left to us by the imam, and we should safeguard all its values. [passage omitted]

Tehran Cites Fadlallah on Israeli 'Aggression'

NC3003201790 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] In his two Friday sermons in Beirut today, 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah warned it is likely that the Zionist entity might carry out a new aggression against southern Lebanon. He said the Zionist entity will stage this attack with U.S. support to expand the occupied area of the border strip in southern Lebanon to accommodate Jewish settlers after evacuating the original inhabitants from that area.

He warned Muslims against the new American-Zionist plot and urged the Islamic Lebanese and Palestinian forces to foil the enemies' conspiracies.

He also stressed his support for the implementation of the revolutionary death sentence against Zionist American Bill Robinson.

UN Told of Iraqi Cross-Border Raids

LD0104132790 Tehran IRNA in English 1103 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] United Nations (New York), April 1, IRNA—The Iraqi regime continues to collaborate with Iranian terrorist and anti-revolutionary groups in border areas, the Islamic Republic had informed the U.N. chief.

Eight mercenaries of the outlaw grouplet Iran's Democratic Party, backed by Ba'thist troops, attacked Nissaneh village near the western boarder town of Nosoud [place names as received] on 14 October, 1989, Iran's permanent envoy at the U.N. Kamal Kharrazi pointed out in his letter to Javier Perez de Cuellar, which was published Saturday as a Security Council document.

During clashes, it said, Iranian troops killed 3 of the intruders, and wounded and arrested one, immediately bringing him before an officer of the U.N. Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG), which monitors the August 20, 1988 ceasefire in the Iraqi war.

The wounded outlaw told the UNIIMOG officer that his group, fully backed by Iraqi troops, was equipped and guided to within 300 metres of the Iranian forces.

"Our weapons are suppied by the Iraqi Government and we receive them at the Sulaymaniya garrison (northeastern Iraq)," the outlaw told the U.N. officer according to the letter.

He said that his group was trying to attract political attention, and admitted that similar attacks were launched on the western towns of Marivan, Baneh, Sardasht and Piran Shahr.

The statement of the outlaw was noted down by the UNIIMOG officer, the letter to the U.N. chief pointed out.

Velayati, ANC Official Discuss 'Struggles'

LD3103175490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] In a meeting this afternoon with Foreign Minister Velayati, Mr. Alfred Nzo, the ANC [African National Congress] secretary-general, paid tribute to the struggles of the Muslim nation of Iran. He also presented a report about the struggles of the people of South Africa against the racist government and about the latest developments in South Africa. He described the activities of the ANC and the existing problems and obstacles in the path of advancing the anti-apartheid struggle.

Mr. Velayati, for his part, welcomed the ANC delegation and stressed the consistent support of the Islamic Republic of Iran's people and government for anti-racist struggles and expressed pleasure at Mr. Nelson Mandela's release. Our country's foreign minister noted it is only through continued struggle that success and victory can be achieved. He added: The experience of the Islamic revolution has taught us to be vigilant about the ploys of global arrogance and to keep in view the new methods of colonialism which have replaced the old.

Rafsanjani Receives ANC's Nzo

LD0104185190 Tehran IRNA in English 1515 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 1, IRNA—Iran attaches importance to the South African issue and strongly backs the right of South African people to decide their own fate, said President Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani today.

In his meeting with Alfred Nzo, secretary-general of the African National Congress (ANC), Rafsanjani said that the "Islamic Republic regards the apartheid regime and the Zionist regime as illicit." He welcomed the release of ANC leader Nelson Mandela from years of imprisonment, and cautioned the congress against undue optimism. Iran hopes that the anti-apartheid struggle would triumph without bloodshed, said Rafsanjani and underlined imperialist plots. The slightest negligence of the South African people against the stratagems of global arrogance, he warned, may cost the ANC dear.

Nzo in response conveyed "warm greetings" from ANC leaders Oliver Tambo and Nelson Mandela to Rafsanjani on the occasion of the 11th anniversary of the Islamic Republic and the blessed month of Ramadan. He briefed the Iranian president on the latest developments in southern Africa, and on behalf of Mandela expressed the South African people's gratitude for Iran's support to the anti-apartheid struggle. The oppressed people of South Africa, said Nzo, are determined to liberate their homeland and usher in democracy and justice.

Nzo arrived here last Friday. Foreign Ministry deputy for Arab-African affairs Hoseyn Sheikholeslam was also present at the meeting.

Industry Minister Discusses Trade With Sweden

LD2703230690 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Stockholm, March 27, IRNA—Iran's Heavy Industry Minister Hadi Nejad-Hoseynyan discussed political developments in west Asia and the Persian Gulf with Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson here today.

Nejad-Hoseynyan also elaborated on the first 5-year development plan of the Islamic Republic and expressed hope that Tehran-Stockholm political and economic ties would expand.

Andersson seemed to agree and said Sweden is keen on expanding its relations with the Islamic Republic.

He also voiced support for full implementation of U.N. Resolution 598 which seeks to end the Iraqi conflict.

Earlier, Nejad-Hoseynyan held talks with Swedish Industry Minister Rune Molin and explained in detail reconstruction underway in Iran and the long-term objectives of the 5-year plan.

Elaborating Iran's policies, he encouraged Sweden for joint cooperation and trade exchanges through various means including the buy-back system.

"Despite hard times the Islamic Republic has no debt to any foreign country or company, and Iran's Central Bank is one of the most credible banks in the world," he told the Swedish minister.

Nejad-Hoseynyan said the country has earmarked dlrs 10 billion towards expansion of industries during the next five years, and hoped Swedish firms would participate in the reconstruction era by adapting their trade policies with industrial and economic policies of Iran.

Molin in reply reiterated the keeness of his country to expand industrial and economic cooperation with Iran, and hailed the Iranian official's visit as a "new era of mutual relations."

Results of Swedish Trip Noted

LD0104152590 Tehran IRNA in English 1120 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 1, IRNA—Swedish Government officials and managers of leading Swedish firms have expressed keeness to cooperate with Iran regarding investments in the industrial sector.

Back from a 6-day visit to Sweden, Heavy Industry Minister Hadi Nejad-Hoseynian disclosed Saturday night, that it was agreed that Iran would purchase 60-million dollars worth of mining machinery and equipment from Sweden in return for exporting metallic and non-metallic minerals to that country.

"The two have also agreed in principle on implementation of mining projects up to the ceiling of dls. 500 million through barter deal," he added.

Iran and Sweden are to hold talks for setting up factories for manufacturing trucks, mining machinery, ball bearings, paper, glass as well as dairy farms and and package factories, Hoseynian said.

While in Stockholm, Husseiniyan elaborated on Iran's first 5-year development plan, in his meetings with Swedish ministers of industry and foreign affairs.

He also participated in a special seminar titled 'Export Radet' attended by representatives from 80 Swedish companies and banks and several government officials to review bilateral trade-industrial relations.

Minster Announces More Hard Currency for Industry

LD2803150790 Tehran IRNA in English 0915 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., March 28, IRNA—Some $2 billion in hard currency will be provided to producers of major commodities at competitive rates during current Iranian year (started March 21), said Minister of Industries Mohammad Reza Nematzadeh here Tuesday.

Speaking in an interview with IRNA, Nematzadeh added that $800 million in hard currency were allocated for supply of raw materials of factories last year. $510 million of the amount was disbursed until March 20 and the remainder will be given out this spring, he added.

According to the minister another 30 industrial units will be added to last year's list of 139 units entitled to receive hard currency at competitive rates, bringing the number to 169 this year.

In conclusion, he said that about 80 percent of factories in the country received services of the industries ministry.

Agriculture Minister Returns From New Zealand

LD2803151890 Tehran IRNA in English 0646 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, March 28, IRNA—Iran's Agriculture Minister 'Isa Kalantari who was in Wellington for the third session of Iran-New Zealand joint economic commission returned home Wednesday.

In an interview upon arrival Kalantari described the visit as constructive and added that bilateral cooperation in the fields of economy, commerce, culture, communications and exchange of students were discussed at various committees of the joint commission.

The minister said that Iran is a major importer of meat, wool and dairy products from New Zealand.

On agreements reached during the session he said that New Zealand will import goods including carpets from Iran within the framework of bilateral trade exchanges.

Delegation Leaves For Cyprus Conference

LD3003223590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] The Iranian delegation to the 83d Interparliamentary Union session, led by Mr. Ahmad 'Azizi, the secretary-general of the Interparliamentary Union, left Tehran for Nicosia this afternoon.

The 83d Interparliamentary Union session will be held between two and seven in Nicosia, the Cypriot capital. Nearly 110 parliamentary delegations will take part.

Discussion on world political, economic, and social issues, participation of parliaments in the fight against narcotics, employment, professional training, and new technology in connection with progress and social justice are on the agenda of the springtime interparliamentary conference.

Three Satellite TV Stations Commissioned

LD0104185390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] The satellite television station of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Network-2 became operational today in Marivan township. According to the Central News Unit, with this satellite station becoming operational, the inhabitants of Marivan and several villages nearby, can from now on receive the programs of Network-2 of the Vision of the Islamic Republic, on channel nine.

Also, with the installation and commissioning of the 10 watt power satellite station of the Divan-Darreh district which began today, the inhabitants of the Divan-Darreh districts and the surrounding villages can, from now on, receive the programs of Network-2 of the Vision of the Islamic Republic, on channel five.

Simultaneously with the Yawm Allah of 12th Farvardin [1 April, anniversary of the founding of the Islamic Republic], the 50 watt power television satellite station of Jolfa and Hadi-Shahr, in eastern Azerbaijan, was inaugurated and became operational. According to the Central News Unit, with this television transmitter becoming operational, the inhabitants of Jolf and Hadi-Shahr can now receive the programs of Network-2 of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on channel five.

New Satellite Ground Stations in Khorasan Province

LD0104135190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, on the anniversary of the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the town of Kahnuj was brought under the coverage of the second program of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran today.

According to the same report, through the efforts of the personnel of Kermans Television and FM Transmitters repair and maintenance unit, a satellite ground station with a 10 watt capacity has been installed in the center of Kahnuj. The residents of the town and its surrounding villages can, beginning today, watch the second program of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Channel 10.

We have a report about the commencement of operations of satellite ground stations in Khorasan Province, to which we draw your attention:

[Unidentified correspondent] Concurrent with the start of the new year [21 March] and the blessings of Islamic Republic Day, 1 April, six satellite ground stations for the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran officially went into operation in Khorasan Province. With the commencement of operations at the satellite ground stations, which had been working for some time on a trial basis, the towns of Tabas and Taybad and their surrounding regions have come under the coverage of the second program; over 20 villages in Khorasan Province have also come under the coverage of the Vision's first program. As a result, over 82,000 people can now benefit from the two programs of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Khorasan Province.

The six satellite ground stations were installed and put into operation by the staff of Mashhad's television transmitters repair and maintenance unit, and part of its budget came from the province's credit allocation on the approval of the province's social council [shora-ye 'ejtema'i].

[Announcer] Central News Unit, Mashhad.

Nepal

Foreign Minister's Resignation Reported

BK3003124890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] The foreign minister of Nepal, Mr. Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya, has resigned. Mr. Upadhyaya submitted his resignation to the prime minister, Mr. Marich Man Singh Shrestha, this morning. Our Kathmandu correspondent understands that Mr. Upadhyaya resigned because he was critical of Mr. Shrestha's way of handling the movement in favor of the multiparty system.

Major Cabinet Change Said To Induct 'Hardliners'

BK0104064090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] In a major cabinet reshuffle in Nepal, the prime minister, Mr. Marich Man Shrestha, has dropped four cabinet ministers, one minister of state and, four assistant ministers.

Our Kathmandu correspondent Harish Segon reports that the ministers who have been dropped were known

for their moderate views. They reportedly favor negotiations to solve the crisis arising out of the movement for multiparty system. The new ministers inducted into the cabinet are known as hardliners in the context.

It may be recalled that Upadhayaya, who has been dropped in the reshuffle had submitted his resignation as foreign minister two days ago.

'Liberal' Ministers Removed in 'Major' Reshuffle

BK0104064890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0624 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 1 (AFP)—Nine Nepalese ministers lost their jobs in a major government reshuffle Sunday, most of them opponents of Prime Minister Marich Man Shrestha's hard-line stance against the pro-democracy movement. Hari Bahadur Basnyat, a Moscow University-trained civil engineer, was named foreign minister. Mr. Basnyat was minister for water resources and replaced Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya, who resigned Friday on sharp differences with Mr. Shrestha on how to deal with an opposition campaign for multiparty democracy.

Mr. Shrestha retained the defence and royal palace affairs portfolios in the 25-member Council of Ministers, while Bharat Bahadur Pradhan remained finance minister but lost the industry portfolio.

Four cabinet ministers and a minister of state were dropped. They included Prakash Chandra Lohani, minister for physical development and housing, Lili Raj Bista, minister for social welfare and labour, Badri Prasad Mandal, minister for law and justice, Jaya Prakash, minister of state for land reform and management.

Among the four junior ministers dropped was Bimal Man Singh, elected from Kathmandu District.

Like Mr. Upadhyaya, most of the outgoing ministers advocated peaceful dialogue with the opposition.

A government source said that the prime minister failed in efforts to include some of his critics in the government because none of them wanted to join his cabinet at a time of upheaval. In the past six weeks, thousands of opposition activists have been arrested after taking part in widespread street demonstrations for the abolition of the 30-year-old partyless panchayat political system.

Minister of State for Home Niranjan Thapa retained his portfolio while a close ally of the prime minister, Minister of State for Communications Kamal Thapa, was transferred to the Ministry of Forestry and Soil Conservation. He was replaced by Ramesh Nath Pandey, who will also serve as industry minister. Mr. Pandey was a journalist and nominated to Parliament by King Birendra. Gunjeswore Prasad Singh was given full cabinet rank as minister with the public works and transport portfolios.

Among the new entrants was Laksha Bahadur Gurung as minister of state for land reform and management.

Most of the new entrants in the cabinet, including Mr. Pandey and Mr. Singh, were dropped in the last two reshuffles in 1988 and 1989.

The Council of Ministers is composed of 25 members. In addition to an inner cabinet of 11 members, the council includes seven ministers of state and seven assistant or junior ministers.

New Cabinet Membership Reported

BK0104065890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0648 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 1 (AFP)—Members of Nepal's Council of Ministers after Sunday's reshuffle:

Prime Minister: Marich Man Singh Shrestha

Ministers:
Royal Palace: Marich Man Singh Shrestha
Defence: Marich Man Singh Shrestha
Foreign Affairs: Hari Bahadur Basnyat
Water Resources: Hari Bahadur Basnyat
Education and Culture: Parashu Narayan Chaudhary
Labour and Social Welfare: Sushila Thapa
Finance: Bharat Bahadur Pradhan
Construction and Transport: Gunjeswori Prashad Singh
Tourism: Mohammed Moshin
Panchayat and Local Development: Prakash Bahadur Singh
Agriculture: Krishna Charan Shrestha
Physical Development: Fatya Singh Thapa
Industry: Ramesh Nath Pandey

Ministers of State:
Home: Niranjan Thapa
General Administration: Jit Singh Khadka
Law and Justice: Jit Singh Khadka
Supply: Nara Bahadur Budhathoki
Health: Omkar Prashad Gautam
Commerce: Sarat Singh Bhandari
Forestry and Soil Conservation: Kamal Thapa
Land Reform and Management: Laksha Bahadur Gurung

Assistant Ministers:
Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Development: Ang Tsering Lama
Forestry and Soil Conservation: Ganesh Prashad Bhatta
Agriculture and Horticulture: Janak Bahadur Shah
Education (Primary): Kshetra Pratap Adhikari
Housing and Drinking Water Management: Parshu Ram Khapung
Panchayat and Local Development: Benup Raj Prasai
Irrigation and Water Resources: Mrigendra Kumar Singh

Indian Delegation Arrives for Official Talks

BK3103155690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] The 11-member Indian delegation led by the foreign secretary, Mr. S.K. Singh, arrived in Kathmandu this evening to take part in the India-Nepal official-level talks beginning tomorrow. The Nepalese delegation during the talks will be led by its foreign secretary, Mr. Narendra Bikram Shah. AIR [All India Radio] Kathmandu correspondent, Harish Segon, reports that the two sides will be working on documents within the framework decided at the Delhi talks last month to arrive at a comprehensive settlement of all bilateral problems.

Talks Begin 1 April

BK0104081590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] The India-Nepal official-level talks began in Kathmandu today. The Indian delegation at the talks is headed by the foreign secretary, Mr. S.K. Singh; while his Nepali counterpart, Mr. Narendra Bikram Shah, is leading his country's delegation.

Our Kathmandu correspondent reports that the two sides will work on documents within the framework of the Delhi talks held in February this year to arrive at a comprehensive settlement of all bilateral issues.

Talks, Demonstrations Continue

BK0204095990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Top officials of India and Nepal are continuing their talks in Kathmandu today to find a comprehensive solution to all bilateral problems. The two sides are led by their foreign secretaries—Mr. S.K. Singh of India and Mr. Narendra Bikram Shah of Nepal. The talks will focus on documents based on the parameters already decided in negotiations earlier in New Delhi. The two sides had decided at the Delhi talks that instead of considering piecemeal solution of individual issues, they should work for a comprehensive settlement of all bilateral problems.

Meanwhile, in Nepal, protest demonstrations are continuing in Patan town for the fourth day today. People in large numbers took out processions, raising slogans in support of the multiparty system and against violation of human rights. Reports of protest demonstrations have also come in from Bhaktapur and Kirtipur. AIR [All India Radio] special correspondent Harish Segon reports that the entire valley of Kathmandu is observing a bundh [strike] today in response to a call by the banned Nepalese Congress and the United Left Front, who are spearheading the movement in favor of the multiparty system. Doctors again struck work today demanding release of their colleagues.

Talks Reportedly Fail

BK0204104290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1015 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 2 (AFP)—Talks at foreign ministerial level here Monday [2 April] between India and Nepal on new trade and transit treaties have failed, an informed source said. The talks between Indian Foreign Secretary Shailendra Kumar Singh and his Nepalese counterpart Narandra Bikram Shah, resumed Monday after an earlier round Sunday [1 April], but stalled after the Indian delegation presented draft treaties which differed from ones discussed at a meeting in New Delhi in February, the source said. The draft treaties would be worse than those signed in 1978, which expired in March last year, and would push back Indo-Nepalese political relations, sources said.

Chief spokesman for the Nepalese Government, Radhe Shyam Bista, said he had no knowledge of the progress of the talks and was not authorized to comment. A statement last week by the Indian External Affairs Ministry in New Delhi had said the 11-member Indian delegation was expected to prepare documents for a "comprehensive solution to all outstanding issues" during the four-day visit. Officials had said the agreements were expected to be signed during a proposed visit by Indian Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral, possibly in April.

Serious differences emerged between India and Nepal on bilateral trade arrangements leading New Delhi to clamp a virtual economic blockade against the landlocked Himalayan kingdom a year ago. The Indian Government of then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi closed all but two border openings to shipments of commodities, including petroleum products, triggering acute shortages in Nepal. The controversy, which sources said was due in part to the Indian Government's reaction to Kathmandu's imports from China, severely strained relations between New Delhi and Kathmandu.

Also Monday former Nepalese Foreign Minister Krishna Raj Aryal and former Minister for Housing and Physical Development Prakash Chandra Lohani said in separate statements that Nepal before signing treaties with India should seek the opinion and advice of the relevant committee in the Panchayat (parliament.)

"Free and open debate helps to identify the larger national interest in the context of the impact of decisions of national life," Mr. Aryal said.

Dr. Lohani, who was dropped from the cabinet in Sunday's reshuffle, said "the trade and transit treaty that is to be signed between Nepal and India is a matter of deep concern to all Nepalese since it effects the future of Nepal and structure of relationship between the two countries."

"It is therefore imperative that this draft treaty be presented before the Nepalese people for free discussion and analysis," he said, adding "I urge his majesty's

government to submit the draft treaty for open discussion before the Social Committee of the national Panchayat without delay."

Continuing Protest in Patton Reported

BK3103080890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] In Nepal, the situation at Patton further deteriorated this morning when police resorted to firing and teargassing agitating demonstrators for the second day today. AIR [All India Radio] Kathmandu correspondent Harish Segon reports that tension prevails in the town of Patton where largescale arrests have been made yesterday and today. People in large numbers, mainly students and farmers, held protest demonstrations raising slogans in support of multiparty system and human rights.

Meanwhile, the Nepalese Government has banned all strikes by the employees of essential services in the country with immediate effect.

Medical Workers Strike To Protest Detentions

OW0104080690 Tokyo KYODO in English 0654 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 1, KYODO—Hospitals and health centers were completely paralyzed, except in emergency services in Nepal Sunday as doctors, nurses and paramedics went on a countrywide strike to press their demand for immediate release of their colleagues detained by the government. Wearing black armbands, the medical workers sat in front of the half dozen hospitals of this capital city demanding release of all the medicos arrested in connection with the present campaign for a multiparty political system. They closed their services in defiance of a government order that bans strike by employees of all essential services.

Reports of the medicos closing their services at hospitals were also received from the western resort town of Pokhara as well as Biratnagar in the east and Birganj in the south.

The call to the medicos to stop their work Sunday was made by the Nepal Medical Association, the Trained Nurses Association of Nepal, and the Paramedical Association of Nepal. The associations have accused the government of failing to fulfill its assurance made earlier that all doctors and nurses held in different parts of the kingdom will be released. Two doctors and some nine paramedical workers are still held, Nepal Medical Association sources said.

Schools Closed in 3 Townships Following Violence

BK0204005490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1847 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 1 (AFP)—Nepalese authorities Sunday [1 April] ordered the indefinite closure of all schools in Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur townships, the scene of violent pro-democracy protests last week. The Education Ministry's announcement, broadcast on state-run television and radio, said only that the academic atmosphere in a few schools had not been favourable for regular classes.

The indefinite closure affects over 400 primary, middle and secondary schools in Kathmandu valley, where the three townships are located, officials said. The school closure came as the government tried to quell a seven-week movement demanding the restoration of multiparty democracy in this Himalayan kingdom, governed for the past three decades through a partyless system known as Panchayat.

Children as young as six or seven have been seen waving anti-Panchayat banners, and the Nepal National Teachers Organization reported that several small children were detained by authorites for one day last week.

The government has already indefinitely closed several major Kathmandu valley colleges following student unrest, including the law, engineering and medical schools of Tribhuvan University.

On Friday, two people were killed and several others injured as riot police battled demonstrators for several hours in Lalitpur and Bhaktapur.

Over 25,000 Demonstrate in Kathmandu Suburb

BK0204095090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0914 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 2 (AFP)—Over 25,000 demonstrators, including women carrying babies, again marched in the Kathmandu suburb of Lalitpur Monday shouting antigovernment slogans and denouncing earlier police action, witnesses said. Riot police were posted at various points in the Lalitpur area to stop the demonstrators heading into Kathmandu.

Witnesses said the demonstrators shouted slogans like "Down with dictorial Panchayat system", "Stop barbaric police action", and "We want democracy," while some burnt a symbolic Panchayat (parliament).

The demonstrations followed similar protests early Sunday after residents had spent a sleepless night Saturday-Sunday guarding their homes against forced entry and arrests by riot police. As with the earlier protest, Monday's crowd expressed their outrage at police firing on protestors in Lalitpur on Friday and Saturday that left at least two dead and 16 injured, witnesses said.

Another group of demonstrators marched from the Chyasal area of Lalitpur to Sundhara to hold a public rally. Leaders from the outlawed pro-democracy Nepali Congress and the banned Nepal Communist Party said they wanted to hold the peaceful protest to push for political rights. The Lalitpur district president of the Nepali Congress, Omkar Lal Shrestha said demonstrators were "tortured" and that the police had used force

and hac
had for d started a "manhunt" to arrest protestors and ced their way into private houses during it.

Followi
Lalitpu ing a call from the outlawed parties shops in
Monday r, Bhaktapur and Kathmandu were closed
streets. y, and most cars and taxis remained off the
dents of The outlawed parties have also called on resi-
between f Kathmandu to turn off their lights for one hour n 7:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. (1315 to 1415 GMT.)

Political
the part l parties were banned in Nepal 30 years ago when
oppositi lyless Panchayat system was introduced. Banned
party pl ion groups have been agitating for a return to
ment wa luralism since a nationwide democracy move-
as launched by them in mid-February.

Over 50,000 Participate in Antigovernment Rally

*BK0204
2 Apr 90 114690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1129 GMT*

[Excerpt ts] Kathmandu, April 2 (AFP)—Over 50,000
demonst trators converged Monday [2 April] on Sundhara
in the cer ntre of the Lalitpur suburb of Kathmandu for an
antigove rnment rally without interference from riot
police, w witnesses said. In the largest political demonstra-
tion in Nepal since outlawed pro-democracy parties
launched d a nationwide campaign to remove the partyless
Panchaya at (parliament) system on February 18, the
demonsti rators shouted slogans and waved banners and
black flag gs, witnesses said.

Some 18, 000 to 20,000 people including women carrying
babies bo egan the demonstration early Monday in the
Nag Bah ald area, but by the early afternoon the crowd
had swel lled to 40,000 and had reached 50,000 by the
time it re eached Sundhara, the witnesses said. Carrying
bamboo s sticks, sickles, iron rods, swords and shields to
protect t hemselves against possible police action, the
crowd ci ircled the Lalitpur District shouting anti-
Panchaya at slogans like "Down with the dictatorial Pan-
chayat sy stem," and "We want democracy."

Riot polic ce stationed to prevent the crowd moving into
Kathman du used loudspeakers to ask the crowd not to
move tow wards the city. The crowd complied with the
request. N No force was used by the police who did not
otherwise e interfere with the demonstration, witnesses
said. [pas ssage omitted]

Speakers at the rally in Sundhara, including leaders from
the banne ed parties, called the partyless system "dictato-
rial" and said it was in the interests of only a few to
maintain it. They also alleged that the government had
employed thugs to mingle with the crowd and stir up
trouble b by throwing rocks at riot police to provoke them
into attac cking the crowds.

Other spe eakers attacked the police for the harsh methods
they had used against unarmed people. One youth leader
said "It is s police who forced us to be violent. We are not
extremist s nor are we antinationals. We are nationalist
democrat s fighting for the political rights."

Also on Monday 1,000 people from various parties held a separate demonstration in the suburb of Kirtipur. Demonstrators burned a symbol of the Panchayat and chanted antigovernment slogans.

Meanwhile teaching staff at the government-run Trichandra Campus, Nepal's oldest college, held a meeting late Sunday and agreed to continue classes despite the closure of several other campuses in Kathmandu.

The staff said they would ask the authorities to ensure that police did not enter the campus to arrest or attack students, sources said. They also expressed their moral support for the nationwide pro-democracy movement, the sources added.

The general secretary of the pro-democracy Nepal Students Union, Nabindra Raj Joshi, Monday welcomed the staff decision, and called on the government to open all schools and colleges so that students' studies would not be interrupted. [passage omitted]

Police Fire on Kirtipur Demonstrators; 3 Killed

BK0204152890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1511 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 2 (AFP)—At least three persons were killed and three people suffered serious gunshot wounds in police firing late Monday [2 April] during a demonstration of 4,000 people in the nearby town of Kirtipur, witnesses said. They said the crowd was chanting slogans against Nepal's political system under which all political parties are banned.

Official confirmation of the casualties was not immediately available.

The crowd was attempting to march toward Kathmandu, about 10 kilometers (six miles) to the east, when the firing began, witnesses said.

Eight Others Injured

OW0204145690 Tokyo KYODO in English 1438 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 2 KYODO—Three persons were killed and eight others received bullet injuries when the police fired at a crowd of demonstrators in Kathmandu Monday afternoon, hospital sources said. The sources said of the eight injured, five are in serious condition.

The confrontation took place at Kirtipur in the western outskirts of the capital, where citizens were organizing demonstrations demanding multiparty democracy.

There has been no official confirmation of the death toll thus far. With the three latest deaths, a total of 18 persons have been killed in Nepal by official count since the movement for multiparty began in February.

People in the capital switched off their lights in the evening to protest the police action, while demonstrators clashed with the police in other parts of the city. Angry youths also roamed the streets shouting militant slogans until late in the night.

Pakistan

Bhutto Rules Out Seeking Fresh Confidence Vote

BK0104073690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] The prime minister has said the recent increase in prices of petroleum products and fertilizer was inevitable given the best interest of the nation. Talking to newsmen at an ifthar [fast-breaking party] which she hosted in Islamabad last evening, Ms. Benazir Bhutto said the decision on the price rise was made after in-depth deliberation. It is imperative for democratic governments to take hard decisions in the collective interest of the people and the country. The prime minister said fertilizer prices were readjusted to maintain balance in supply and demand and check the black market.

About the opposition's demand for a fresh vote of confidence, Ms. Benazir Bhutto said the democratic system has to be given a full opportunity without any obstacles in the best interest of the country. She said the opposition demand is unconstitutional and its aim is to impede the path of a democratically elected government. The prime minister said she had twice secured the vote of confidence in the National Assembly in the last one and half years.

Yaqub Khan Refutes Kabul Charges to UN Chief

BK0104082190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Pakistan has reiterated its firm commitment to sincere implementation of the Geneva accord on the Afghanistan problem. This was stated by Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan in a letter to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar. He described as totally baseless and fabricated the allegations leveled by the Kabul regime foreign minister in a recent letter to the UN secretary general.

The Pakistan foreign minister in his letter said that the recent coup attempt in Afghanistan has once again proved that the Kabul regime is rejected not only by the Afghan nation, but even by important elements of the the Afghan forces and the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan itself. The letter adds that it has also exposed the myth of the viability of the Kabul regime.

Hyderabad Situation Peaceful; Arms Raids Continue

BK0204023290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] A press note issued by the district magistrate of Hyderabad last night says that although the overall situation in Hyderabad city and Latifabad subdivision is peaceful, some troublemakers shot and wounded one person near the city branch of the L.M.C. Hospital.

The press note adds that raids are being conducted to recover illegal arms, and some more persons involved in murder have been arrested. The law enforcement agencies have intensified patrolling in Hyderabad city and Latifabad subdivision.

Bhutto First Contributor to Kashmir Relief Fund

BK3103142790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 31 Mart 90

[Text] The government has decided to institute the Prime Minister's Fund for the welfare and assistance of Kashmiris with immediate effect. The prime minister has donated 10 crore rupees as an initial contribution. Contributions for the fund will be exempt from income tax and zakat fund. All branches of the State Bank of Pakistan, scheduled banks and all treasury offices will collect for the fund. Contributions can be made at home and abroad.

Hizballah Leader Visits Kashmir, Pledges Support

BK3103054690 Lahore THE NATION in English 31 Mar 90 p 8

["From our correspondent"]

[Text] Muzaffarabad—Agha Abbas Musivi leader of Hizballah and leader of over 32 member delegation from Iran, Lebanon, Iraq and Palestine has assured Kashmiris that they would render all possible political moral and material support to them in their struggle for right of self determination. The other members of delegation also expressed the same feelings. The delegation visited Muzaffarabad on Monday and met a number of Kashmiri people. They also visited a few refugee camps.

Agha Abbas and Agha Nafees addressing the refugee gatherings said that superpowers irrespective of their ideological differences were united against revival of Islam and unity among the Muslims of the world. They were equally inimical to freedom and Islamic entity of Muslims of Afghanistan, Lebanon, Palestine Azerbaijan and Kashmir, the leaders said and exhorted the Muslims to unite under one banner of Kalima Toheed [sacred pledge for unity] and one platform of Islam to meet the challenges of American imperialism, communism, Zionism and Hinduism.

Both the leaders declared that Kashmir was an issue to Islamic World.

Welcoming the delegation on behalf of the President and Prime Minister, Azad Kashmir, Khalil Ahmad Quarishi, additional Chief Secretary [as published] Services briefly narrated the history of Kashmir issue and appealed to Muslim countries to exert their pressure on India to hold plebiscite in the State.

Sri Lanka

LTTE Leader Out of Hiding; No Arms Surrender

BK0104140190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1355 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Jaffna, Sri Lanka, April 1 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's legendary Tamil leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran, said here Sunday [1 April] that his guerrillas would not lay down arms and urged India's new government to improve ties with his group.

Mr. Prabhakaran, 35, emerging from more than two years in a jungle hideout, told local journalists that his hardline Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) would not surrender its weapons.

It was his first press conference since he went into hiding in late 1987, after Indian troops deployed in Sri Lanka's Tamil-majority Northeast launched a military campaign to disarm the LTTE.

Mr. Prabhakaran, apparently in excellent health, said Colombo wanted the Tigers to lay down their arms, but he said this would not be done.

The LTTE had previously said it would give up arms once the Indian troops left Sri Lanka, but it has changed its stance since the last of the Indian soldiers sailed home on March 24.

Mr. Prabhakaran said the Sri Lankan Government, which opened peace talks with his group in April 1989, had not offered "a substantial alternative to Eelam" yet.

Eelam is the name given to an independent homeland composed of Sri Lanka's Northeast, which Tamil guerrillas wanted to secede.

The Indian Army was deployed in Sri Lanka under a July 1987 bilateral pact that sought to end the Eelam campaign.

Mr. Prabhakaran said he was bitter about the Indian Army offensive, but hoped that the government of Prime Minister V.P. Singh in New Delhi would make "sincere efforts" to have friendly ties with the LTTE.

The Indian-LTTE bush war claimed thousands of lives, including 1,155 Indian soldiers and many more civilians and Tamil guerrillas.

Mr. Prabhakaran retreated to the Wanni jungles in northern Sri Lanka after the Indian Army began its campaign in October 1987 against the LTTE, which New Delhi had once reportedly trained and armed.

The LTTE leader, a folk hero in Sri Lanka's Tamil areas, remained confined there and directed a bloody bush war against the Indians, eluding their repeated forays to capture him.

He said Sunday that an Indian patrol had once narrowly missed him, and on another occasion he was knocked down by a heavy bomb fired by the Indian Army.

Mr. Prabhakaran said the LTTE's armed struggle had now taken political overtones, but that he did not see himself as a politician.

He founded the LTTE in May 1975. In July 1983, the group ambushed and killed 13 Sri Lankan soldiers in this northern peninsula, sparking widespread anti-Tamil riots in Colombo.

Mr. Prabhakaran lived in India for many years where, with the tacit backing of the authorities, he shaped the LTTE into a highly armed group of hundreds of committed guerrillas.

But he turned against India after New Delhi tried to make him accept its 1987 pact with Colombo, under which all Tamil guerrilla groups were to lay down their arms and give up the campaign for Eelam.

The state-run SUNDAY OBSERVER newspaper said earlier that Mr. Prabhakaran came out of his jungle hideout on Thursday.

LTTE Frees Captured Indian Fishermen, Boats

BK3003151690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1505 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Colombo, March 30 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil rebel group Friday [30 March] freed an unspecified number of Indian boats and fishermen its guerrillas had seized from a strait separating India from this island nation.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) released them after Muthuvel Karunanidhi, an Indian Tamil politician, asked Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa to intervene, an official statement here said.

It said the president in turn ordered Justice Minister Shahul Hameed to contact the LTTE leaders, who accused the detained Indians of regularly fishing in Sri Lankan waters and damaging fishing nets of Sri Lankan fishermen.

"The problem has now been settled," the statement by Mr. Hameed's office said. "The boats have been released. And they are on their way back to India."

No figures were available, but news reports have said that unidentified heavily armed men seized more than 400 Indian fishermen in 53 boats in the Palk Strait separating India and Sri Lanka early Wednesday. Eight boats with 64 men, however, managed to slip through the cordon of the armed men.

It was not known where the boats and fishermen were kept since their detention. But Tamil sources here said they had been confined in Kankesanthurai area in the island's northern Jaffna Peninsula, a LTTE stronghold.

Mr. Hameed's office said Mr. Karunanidhi, chief minister of the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, spoke to Mr. Premadasa over the phone early Friday, charging the LTTE with the mass kidnappings and demanding their release.

Tamil Nadu is home to an estimated 55 million Indian Tamils, and was brazenly used as a sanctuary by Sri Lankan Tamil guerrilla groups including the LTTE during their separatist campaign in the 1980's.

Indian diplomats confirmed the fishermen's release, but gave no details.

The LTTE fought a bloody bush war against Indian troops deployed in Sri Lanka's northeast under a July 1987 bilateral pact almost until their withdrawal from the island on March 24.

New Ministers To Help Achieve Government Goals

BK3103115090 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Excerpt] President R. Premadasa has reconstituted the Cabinet and assigned some subjects and functions to ministers, project ministers, and state ministers. The president engaged himself in a deep and wide-ranging review of the performance of ministries before the reconstruction of the Cabinet. It was clear that the disruption and destruction of assets and services caused by subversive actions had significantly interfered with the ability of the ministers to achieve their targeted objectives. Resources, efforts, and time had largely been diverted to restore and rehabilitate assets and services which had suffered damage.

With the initiatives taken by the president, the way is now open for a major drive to achieve the government's objectives. These are: to increase production in every sphere, improve the quality of life of the people, provide employment opportunities, and deal resolutely with alleviation of poverty. The attention of the new Cabinet will be directed primarily to these goals.

The institution of project ministers in this administration is an innovation. It is intended to provide dynamism and focus attention on subjects which need urgent and intensive action. The rationale for the creation of this position is to enable the necessary drive and resources to those areas which the government has identified as of the highest priority. The project ministers will be assigned with full authority to implement programs. They will have to achieve given objectives within a specified time frame.

Cabinet ministers will be responsible for policy formulation and programming and participation in collective Cabinet decision-making. They will give leadership in achieving the government's objectives.

State ministers will assist Cabinet ministers, especially in assuming responsibility for implementation of work in regard to specific subjects and functions which will be assigned to them. They will concentrate on eliminating waste and maintaining services at optimum efficiency. It is the president's intention that through this reconstruction of the highest policy-making institutions in government, valuable time lost owing to disruption in the past year can be recovered and a new momentum given to the government's program of dynamism and advancing the social and economic welfare of the people. [passage omitted]